NOTICES
OF THE
OCCURRENCES AT
THE SMALL-POX HOSPITAL,
LONDON,
DURING THE YEAR 1838.

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READ JANUARY 8TH, 1839.

THE total number of patients admitted into the Small-pox Hospital during the year 1838 was 712—416 males, and 296 females.

Of them 17 had diseases not variolous (such as lichen, spurious measles, &c.)

Total, having small-pox in some of its forms, 695.

Of them there died 187, being at the rate of 27 per centum.

Of these 695 there had been vaccinated in early life 302, of whom 30 died, being at the rate of 10 per cent.

The remainder, 393, were unvaccinated, and of them 157 died, being at the rate of 40 per centum.

No patient applied for admission having previously been *inoculated* !

In 1781 the admissions were 646 ; of them 257 died, being in the ratio of 40 per cent., the exact proportion in which the unvaccinated died during the year just passed.

Had the like rate of mortality extended to all the patients admitted, the total deaths would have been 277.

90 lives therefore were saved in 1838, more than in 1781 ; and I think there can be no question that, while some portion of this may be attributed to the improved state of the present Hospital, compared to that in Cold-bath Fields, which received casual patients in 1781, the largest share is due to *vaccination*.

Even at this time the arrangements at the Hospital are wholly inadequate for the numbers. In the months of March and April typhus fever broke out in the wards in consequence of overcrowding, proving fatal to 12 persons, of whom 6 had been vaccinated, and 6 had not.

This would reduce the deaths by small-pox after vaccination to 24, being in the ratio of 8 per cent.

Of the 302 patients received with small-pox after prior vaccination, 97 had the disorder in that extremely mild form, commonly called "*varicelloid*."

The remainder (205) had it in variable degrees of severity, from the most distinct mild, through the several grades of semiconfluent modified and semiconfluent unmodified, to the confluent modified, simple confluent, and confluent malignant.

Great difficulties were necessarily experienced in determining who had been really vaccinated, of those who assumed to have undergone that process. The cicatrix was our chief guide; but this often failed us, from the swollen and pock-covered condition of the arm at the time of the patient's admission.

The same difficulty occurred occasionally with those who professed never to have undergone vaccination. The highly modified aspect of the disease in many of them afforded strong presumption of prior vaccination, which the appearances of the arm gave some countenance to.

The errors on the one side may fairly be taken as balancing those on the other.

The average age at which the patients were received, both the vaccinated and the wholly unprotected, was 21.

79 children were received *under ten years of age*, unvaccinated, of whom 31 died; 5 only at the same age, vaccinated, of whom none died.

The earliest age at which any *vaccinated* person was received was eight years.

The earliest age at which death took place after prior vaccination was fifteen years.

Between ten and twenty years of age, 246 *unvaccinated* were received, of whom 90 died.

Between twenty and forty years of age, 181 *unvaccinated* were received, of whom 86, or nearly one-half, died.

The increased severity of the disease, as life advances, is proved in like manner to hold true in

respect to the vaccinated. Between fifteen and twenty-nine years of age (inclusive) 92 vaccinated persons were admitted, of whom only 6 died. (Say 6 per cent.)

Between twenty and thirty (inclusive) 163 vaccinated persons were admitted, of whom 23 died, being 15 per centum.

The great bulk of the vaccinated cases were between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four.

13 were received having small-pox after vaccination, between the ages of thirty-one and thirty-five, of whom one died.

4 were received above thirty-five years of age, vaccinated, all of whom survived.

The greater number of the vaccinated underwent that process in early infancy, and but a few at a period of life when they could remember the event.

By far the larger proportion were vaccinated in the country, and exhibited only *one cicatrix* on the arm.

London, Jan. 7th, 1839.

*Return of the Ages of the several Persons admitted
into the Small-pox Hospital in 1838.*

Ages of Patients having Small-pox.	UNPROTECTED.		VACCINATED.	
	Admitted.	Died.	Admitted.	Died.
Under 5 years	42	20	0	0
From 5 to 9	37	11	5	0
From 10 to 14	30	8	25	0
From 15 to 19	103	32	92	6
From 20 to 24	113	50	108	15
From 25 to 30	45	23	55	8
From 31 to 35	12	7	13	1
Above 35 years	11	6	4	0
Total	393	157	302	30*

* Of these 6 died of superadded typhus.