

REPLY TO DAVID CRANE

Reference: "The Pilot." The Jersey Church Review. July 1950.

David Crane's Article "Probe into Vaccination"

(Reprinted from "The Anvil")

David Crane bases his belief in vaccination on the authority of "the best medical opinion."

But the most learned doctor of his day, Dr. Charles Creighton, called vaccination "a grotesque superstition." And Professor E. M. Crookshank, called in to refute Creighton's ideas, came to the conclusion, after thorough investigation, that the credit that had been given to vaccination, in respect of the control of smallpox, was really due to isolation and sanitation.

If David Crane would read Creighton's "Jenner and Vaccination" and Crookshank's "The History and Pathology of Vaccination," he would realise how greatly the facts regarding vaccination and smallpox have been misrepresented by orthodox medical authorities.

But David Crane need not take the trouble to get these books in order to realise how completely wrong he is in his statements in *The Anvil*. He has only to look at the Registrar General's returns for England and Wales and the vaccination records contained in the reports of the Local Government Board and of the Ministry of Health to see for himself that our national immunity from smallpox cannot possibly have been due to vaccination.

David Crane speaks of the "almost general vaccination of our population." Does he really not know that the compulsory vaccination acts applied only to infants, and since modern believers in vaccination claim only from three to five years as the protecting period for vaccination, that only a small minority of the population has ever been "protected," as the pro-vaccinists count protection?

Moreover, after the year 1889, there was a steady decline in the number of infants vaccinated, and by the time the first conscience clause was passed by Parliament, a third of the babies born were escaping vaccination. Then there was a small rise in the percentage vaccinated, but on the passing of the second conscience clause, in 1907, vaccination declined to such an extent that during the 40 years to 1947 less than half of the babies born were vaccinated. In some years the number vaccinated was only just over a third of the infants born. Instead of "general vaccination of our population," it was rather "general refusal of vaccination."

And how was smallpox behaving during this long period? The vaccination statistics show that the greatest amount of infant vaccination was performed during the decade following the passing of the Vaccination Act 1867. And the greatest amount of smallpox occurred in 1871-2, when over 42,000 persons died of that disease in England and Wales. So we had the greatest amount of smallpox and the greatest amount of vaccination at the same time.

In 1875 the great Public Health Act was passed, and the history of smallpox gives solid ground for the belief that it was sanitary improvement, coupled with economic improvements which resulted in more healthful diet, that brought about the practical extinction of smallpox from our country. Except for an outburst in 1893-5 and one in 1901-3, both almost trivial compared with the terrible epidemic of 1871-2, smallpox deaths steadily decreased, until, as David Crane himself admits, we have become almost immune from that disease.

David Crane refers to the smallpox outbreak in Scotland in March last. Had he studied the official report on that outbreak he would have discovered several things which completely demolish the case for vaccination. Here are a few of them:—

- (1) The outbreak was started by a thoroughly vaccinated Indian seaman.
- (2) Sixteen out of the 19 cases were admittedly vaccinated persons and one of the re-vaccinated had been re-vaccinated in 1942 and again in 1946.
- (3) Although there must have been many thousands of unvaccinated children living not far from the Hospital in which most of the cases occurred, not one of those children took smallpox.
- (4) All the cases, except one, were patients or staff at the Hospital. That one exception was a visitor to the Hospital.
- (5) It is doubtful whether there would have been any smallpox at all at the Hospital if the case of the Indian had not been wrongly diagnosed. It was considered to be chickenpox because the man had been so thoroughly vaccinated. It was really belief in vaccination that caused the outbreak.
- (6) Only one of the six fatal cases was actually unvaccinated. All the three nurses who died had been vaccinated at some time or other during their lives. One, a 17 year old girl, had been vaccinated seven times. Two others had been offered vaccination on their joining the staff of the Hospital two years ago, and there is no record that they refused the offer. One of these had also been vaccinated three times in infancy. All three were vaccinated again on 26th March, 1950, two as "contacts" and the other at the Smallpox Hospital when taken there as suffering from smallpox. The laundrymaid had been vaccinated as a contact on 26th March, 1950. The 11 months old baby who died was vaccinated on 26th March when it was discovered that she had been a contact with Moussa Ali, the Indian seaman, and again the next day when she was taken to the Smallpox compound. As she was also suffering from a blood disease at the same time, it is hardly surprising that she died.
- (7) The outbreak lasted one week. The Medical Officer of Health for Glasgow described it as a "localised outbreak." Although he subsequently fomented a panic, Glasgow was never at any time "a danger zone." There was no truth in the statements made in the Press, on the authority of the official doctors, that there was danger of infection in Glasgow. There was never at any time the slightest danger to anyone, and if anything could be described as "wicked" it was the way in which the "panic" was worked up. The cases were all isolated in a compound at the distant

Robroyston Hospital. One had died before the "scare" was started by the two Medical Officers of Health concerned—those for Glasgow and Hamilton.

David Crane enlarges on the way people all over Great Britain began to worry about smallpox. What justification was there for that worry? It was worked up by the Press, inspired by fanatical believers in vaccination who refuse, as they have always refused, to face the facts. Smallpox had been introduced into Great Britain several times in recent years—in 1946 and 1947. It had been brought in chiefly by thoroughly vaccinated Service men, and although in at least two instances its existence was not discovered for three weeks or a month, no epidemics started. The large percentage of "unprotected" citizens referred to by David Crane remained perfectly well. During the Northwood incident in 1944 it was alleged that there had been 3,000 contacts with the half a dozen smallpox cases that were discovered, yet the total cases in that outbreak numbered 11 in all. The recently-vaccinated soldier who brought smallpox to Northwood had been three weeks in Hospital before it was realised that he had been suffering from smallpox, and not from measles and chickenpox as had been diagnosed. Eight unvaccinated nurses had been in contact with him, yet only one of them took smallpox.

The Editor of *The Medical Officer* has more than once in recent months commented on the way smallpox fails to "catch on" in Great Britain nowadays. He realises that this cannot be due to vaccination since such a large part of the population is "unprotected" by that operation. Experience has proved that there is no danger at all in having an unvaccinated population in any country.

David Crane seems very ignorant of the facts regarding the vaccination laws. He says that the exemption certificates had to be signed by a parson or a magistrate. The clergy were never allowed to sign these certificates. During the operation of the Vaccination Act 1898, Section 2, they had to be signed by a stipendiary magistrate or two magistrates sitting in Petty Sessions, who had to be "satisfied" of the conscientious belief of the applicant. Under the Vaccination Act 1907, the objector simply made a statutory declaration of his objection, and this could be made before a magistrate or a commissioner for oaths, who were practically obliged to take the declaration.

There is one argument David Crane puts forward that seems the most nonsensical of all, namely, that "avoidance of vaccination may make one a potential danger to others." Presumably the "others" have been vaccinated, and in David Crane's opinion they are "protected." How then can the person who avoids vaccination be a danger to them? It is useless for David Crane to "hedge." They are "protected" or they are not. If they are, then they cannot be in any danger from anyone; if they are not then all this hullabaloo about vaccination is so much popycock.

David Crane says that death as a result of vaccination is negligible. Would he think so if he had lost a baby through vaccination? Every year the English Registrar General records deaths from vaccination—mainly of infants. In the 14 years 1933 to 1946 there were 60 such deaths and during that period not one baby died with smallpox.

Finally what does David Crane mean when he talks about a "minority who cannot be given its own way without preventing the majority from putting its carefully-devised plan into effect?"

Judging from the vaccination records the anti-vaccinists are a majority, not a minority of the population.

And what is this carefully-devised plan? Earlier in the article David Crane expresses the view that opponents of vaccination should be prepared to suffer imprisonment or other penalty for their convictions. Does he suggest that there is a plan in existence for imprisoning all who object to vaccination? Even in Oriental countries the authorities hardly go quite so far as this.

No, David Crane. Compulsory vaccination has been tried in England and failed completely. Thousands of parents paid fines, often inflicted repeatedly, sooner than have their babies vaccinated. Large numbers who could not, or would not, pay fines, had their furniture sold in default, and some hundreds went to prison. A case that stood out from many others was that of a father who was prosecuted for refusing to have his sixth child vaccinated. He carried his four year old little girl into Court to justify his objection to the vaccination of the baby. She had been blinded by vaccination. A doctor on the Bench left his seat and testified before his brother magistrates that the blindness was indeed due to vaccination. The ghastly record of injuries and deaths from vaccination submitted to the Royal Commission on Vaccination fills 470 pages of one of the Appendices to the Report of the Commission. And it is only because so much less vaccination is practised today than in the eighties and nineties of last century that we have not a similar record now. Nevertheless vaccination is still killing and injuring people. Only a few of these cases come to light.

And if men like David Crane, completely ignorant of the truth, pursue their stiff-necked, bull-headed course, and get their way, they will cause the most terrible suffering and misery, with death and life-long injury resulting from a practice that is entirely contrary to the teachings of that Great Master whom presumably the Jersey Church are out to serve.

L. LOAT.

JOIN THE NATIONAL ANTI-VACCINATION LEAGUE

and help to resist these Threatening Tyrannies

Remember Vaccination is not the only Inoculation that Poisons the System:

Diphtheria Immunisation may cause INFANTILE PARALYSIS

Other Vaccines have caused JAUNDICE

Membership subscription 5/- a year; Life Membership £5.

The Vaccination Inquirer (bi-monthly) 3/- a year.

THE ARCHIVE COLLECTION

THIS LITERATURE WAS COLLECTED
FROM VARIOUS SOURCES
OVER THE YEARS OF MY RESEARCH
ON VACCINATION
WHICH STARTED IN SEPTEMBER 1991.

FORTUNATELY I RECEIVED
SEVERAL DOCUMENTS
AND BOOKS FROM INDIVIDUALS
WHO HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN
THE ANTI-VACCINATION LEAGUE OF GREAT BRITAIN
DURING THEIR LIFE TIME.

THE LATE DR GORDON LATTO, WHO SERVED AS THE MEDICAL
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE DURING THE MID 1900s.
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NUMEROUS ARCHIVE PUBLICATIONS & FORWARDING
COPIES TO ME BACK IN THE MID-NINETIES.

I HAVE SCANNED THESE PUBLICATIONS & LITERATURE
TO PRESERVE THE WEALTH OF INFORMATION
CONTAINED WITHIN THESE DOCUMENTS
IN THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL BE CIRCULATED
& MADE AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO WISHES
TO STUDY THE HISTORICAL DATA
SURROUNDING THIS SUBJECT.

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