

Reasons for Opposition to Vaccination

Some of the recipients of these papers will welcome them and approve of the sentiments expressed; some will be indifferent; some will resent them. Instead of answering our arguments or pointing out where they think we may be wrong, these last try to stop our work. This is the totalitarian mentality. It is not whether a statement is true or false that matters to them, but only whether they believe it or not. However, we are not as yet under a medical despotism, and to those capable of fair reasoning and judgement we would point out:—

(1) The National Anti-Vaccination League is an association of men and women who have reason to believe that vaccination is useless and dangerous, and, believing this, must make the facts known. The members would not be doing their duty if they kept silent. Members of the League are always willing to defend their views in debate with any medical or other opponent who cares to come forward, but it is extremely difficult to get a medical supporter for vaccination to take part in a debate.

(2) Vaccination has been a matter of controversy ever since it was introduced 163 years ago. While all medical men have been *trained* to believe in vaccination, some of the highest eminence have seen fit to revise their opinions, and to come out openly on the anti-vaccination side, including Dr. Charles Creighton, the eminent epidemiologist, Professor Edgar M. Crookshank, Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology at King's College, London, and Sir W. J. Collins, M.D., past Chairman of the London County Council, the author of the Dissent Report of the Royal Commission on Vaccination, practically an anti-vaccination textbook.

Dr. Charles Creighton in his evidence to the Royal Commission on Vaccination stated:

"Until I began to look into the subject for the purpose of the article which I wrote in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, I held the ordinary belief which I had been taught as a student, without any question, and it took a long time to change it. . . . What made me suspicious at the outset was the nature of cowpox. When I began to ask myself what is cowpox, I was very much astonished at the nature of the case, and it appeared to me that such a disease as cowpox was, on the evidence of those who described it in Jenner's time and who have described it subsequently, could have antecedently no relation to smallpox at all. That was the suspicion from which I started, and from that suspicion I went on in the downward path of scepticism until I landed in total unbelief."

(3) Many parents who had their children vaccinated and were ignorant of the very dangerous nature of the operation, have regretted their action, **SOME HAVE ASKED WHY WE DID NOT PUBLISH THE FACTS MORE WIDELY.**

(4) The fact that Government Departments approve of vaccination and spend large sums of public money in pushing it does not enjoin belief in the operation. Many beliefs have been imposed which have subsequently proved to be erroneous. In medicine, in particular, harmful practices have been adopted which were discarded after the experience

of many years had proved them to be dangerous. Had vaccination not been made compulsory, there is no doubt that it, too, would have been discarded long ago.

(5) *Why* vaccination is supported by State authorities is not difficult to explain. It was accepted without adequate investigation. Inoculation with smallpox matter had been the custom and had spread smallpox. Doctors were glad to welcome a non-infectious process for which so much was claimed. Jenner's friends persuaded Parliament to vote him £30,000, in two sums, before sufficient time had elapsed to test his theories. But from that time the Government protected vaccination from inquiry and criticism. Failures were not considered and misleading statistics were accepted. Compulsion was imposed in 1853 and stringent compulsion in 1867, all on the authority of groups of doctors. But much that had been formerly claimed for vaccination had to be surrendered after a Royal Commission had sat for 7 years to investigate the matter. Nevertheless the longer the authorities clung to vaccination the more difficult it became for them to discard their mistaken belief.

(6) Disbelief in vaccination is based on *facts*, many of them extracted from official reports compiled by pro-vaccinists. The bigoted believer may scribble "rot" or "rubbish" over our leaflets, but this childish action suggests that he cannot answer them and is furious at being confronted with truths of which he knows nothing and wants to know nothing. Honesty, however, compels study even of the most unpalatable statements. Many who have denied the truth of some of our statements have, in doing so, simply betrayed their own ignorance. Mill pointed out long ago that "He who knows only his own side of the case, knows little of that."

(7) While it may appear on the surface that the majority continued to believe in vaccination, the official record shows that this is not the case. For many years only about one-third of the infants born in England and Wales have been vaccinated against smallpox. Now with no compulsory vaccination laws at all, but with much direct and indirect pressure, a little more than 40 per cent. are vaccinated.

(8) Individual personal experiences which appear to favour vaccination can always be countered by individual personal experience against it.

(9) The truth about vaccination matters so enormously to the whole world that it is the duty of every conscientious man and woman to study the subject and do their utmost to oppose the practice. Many statements printed in Government publications will be found on investigation to be untrue.

THE NATIONAL ANTI-VACCINATION LEAGUE

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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.
ALSO, IAN & MONIQUE STIRLING TO NAME A FEW.

ALSO THANKS TO JOHN WANTLING, AN INDEPENDENT
RESEARCHER, FOR PATIENTLY PHOTOCOPYING
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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