

Justification of Anti-Vaccination Activities.

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. They have the totalitarian mentality. It is not whether a statement is true or false that matters, but only whether they believe it or not. However, we are not yet under a medical despotism. To those capable of fair reasoning and judgment we would point out:—

(1) The National Anti-Vaccination League is an association of men and women who believe that vaccination is useless and dangerous, and, believing this, must make the facts known. They would not be doing their duty if they kept silent. They are as justified in spending their own money on this work and using paper for it as the Government is in spending a thousand times as much money out of the pockets of the taxpayers and a thousand times as much paper for propagating opinions on the other side. Members of the League are always willing to defend their views in debate with any medical or other opponent who cares to come forward. It is extremely difficult to get a medical supporter of vaccination to take part in a debate.

(2) Vaccination has been a matter for controversy ever since it was introduced 160 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, e.g. Dr. Charles Creighton, the eminent epidemiologist, Professor Edgar M. Crookshank, Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology at King's College, London, and others. Sir W. J. Collins, M.D., past Chairman of the London County Council, was the author of the Dissent Report of the Royal Commission on Vaccination, practically an anti-vaccination text-book. Many doctors do not have their children vaccinated. Dr. Charles Creighton defined anti-vaccinators as "those who have found some motive for scrutinising the evidence, generally the very human motive of vaccinal injuries or fatalities in their own families or in those of their neighbours. Whatever their motive, they have scrutinised the evidence to some purpose: they have mastered nearly the whole case; they have knocked the bottom out of a grotesque superstition."

(3) Many parents who had their children vaccinated when 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 necessitate belief in the operation. All through the centuries 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 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. From that time the Government protected the operation from inquiry and assault. Failures were not regarded. 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 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 it.

(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 the existence 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 believe in vaccination, the official record shows that this is not the case. Only about one-third of the infants born in England and Wales today are vaccinated. Fifty per cent. were exempted by the statutory declaration of their parents, and about 15 per cent. remained unvaccinated without exemption being claimed. Now with no vaccination laws at all, less than 30 per cent. are vaccinated.

(8) It should not be forgotten that the State endowment of vaccination has brought, in the aggregate, millions of pounds into the pockets of the doctors. While no doubt prestige counts more with most doctors than pecuniary benefits, the fact remains that the medical profession has a big financial stake in the maintenance of this and kindred operations.

(9) Individual personal experiences which appear to favour vaccination can always be countered by individual personal experiences against it. Investigation frequently results in the discovery that stories found in Government publications favouring vaccination have no basis whatever in fact, e.g. the Franco-Prussian armies lie.

(10) 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.

On behalf of the Council of 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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