

## IMPRISONMENT OF NEWRY ANTI-VACCINATOR

The *Banbridge Chronicle* (a weekly), Northern Ireland, published the following on October 5th:

### NEWRY MAN GAOLED

Henry McAteer (38), O'Neill Avenue, Newry, was arrested on Saturday and sent to Crumlin Road Prison for failing to pay a fine of £1 imposed on him at Newry Petty Sessions recently in respect of non-vaccination of his 2-year-old daughter.

Mr. McAteer made it known at the time that he was opposed to vaccination and that he was prepared to go to gaol rather than have it carried out.

He was prosecuted in respect of three other children previously, but refused to have any of them vaccinated. His eldest son, aged 11, was not subject to the law of vaccination as he was born in Eire. (His father got exemption for him there.)

McAteer's father was fined many years ago for a similar offence, and his grandfather before him also refused to have his children vaccinated.

In January 1954 a Lisburn professional man (Mr. R. B. McCutcheon) was gaoled for failing to have one of his children vaccinated but was released after forty-eight hours on the instructions of the Minister of Home Affairs.

At a meeting of the Down County Health Committee a few weeks ago it was reported that twenty-four parents had refused to have their children vaccinated and instructions were given to have them prosecuted.

In the *Belfast Telegraph* (a daily) for the same date, there appeared the following:

### NEWRY MAN IS RELEASED FROM PRISON

Andrew McAteer (38), O'Neill Avenue, Newry, father of five children, arrested on Saturday last for failing to pay a fine of £1 imposed on him for the non-vaccination of his 2-year-old daughter Mary, was released from Belfast prison today.

Mr. J. Connellan, M.P. for South Down, in a telegram to the Minister of Home Affairs asking for McAteer's immediate release, pointed out that in the previous case of a Lisburn man who had been imprisoned for a similar offence he was released inside forty-eight hours. There was no justification in making an exception in the present case.

Mr. Connellan received intimation this morning that the circumstances concerning McAteer had been reconsidered, and the Governor (Lord Wakehurst) had recommended his immediate release.

The case of Mr. McAteer was reported in a large number of newspapers. The *Northern Whig* for October 6th covered it fully, and amongst English newspapers which reported Mr. McAteer's imprisonment and subsequent release was the *Sunday Dispatch*. This paper splashed the news of his release all over its central page.

Amongst those working on behalf of Mr. McAteer were Mr. W. Edwin James, of Rathfriland, who himself was prosecuted for not having his child vaccinated and was determined to go to prison sooner than pay a fine.

Someone paid the fine for him as it was evidently felt by the authorities that it would never do to imprison a man in Mr. James's position, especially after their earlier experience with Mr. R. B. McCutcheon.

Mr. James went to the prison on Thursday afternoon and saw Mr. McAteer, and on Friday Mr. McCutcheon met him with his car at the prison gate and, after interviewing his M.P. (Mr. Conellan) and entertaining him in Belfast, drove him to his home in Newry. He spent some hours with the McAteer family.

Mr. McAteer spoke bitterly of his treatment in prison and of his having to mix with men sentenced for all sorts of crimes. The English Vaccination Act of 1898 ensured that conscientious objectors to vaccination who suffered imprisonment for non-payment of fines would be treated as first-class misdemeanants. No such change in the Irish law has ever been made.

Advertisements have been inserted in a number of County Down newspapers urging vaccination defaulters to suffer imprisonment sooner than pay fines. This method of resistance would quickly bring the abolition of compulsion in Northern Ireland if it was adopted by a number of defaulters. The *Frontier Sentinel* refused to publish the advertisements.

## A FINE RECORD

Mr. J. Johnson, a naturopath and osteopath of Blackburn, tells us that his father was one of the early pioneers fifty years ago. In all his long years of practice as an unregistered practitioner Mr. Johnson, Senr., never lost a case of pneumonia.

Mr. Johnson has three grandchildren, the oldest 7, the next nearly 5 and the baby 19 months. Early in May the clinic doctor attended at the school and the mother of these children went down. After he had finished he told her she had the healthiest children he had examined. Mr. Johnson has been their doctor from birth. None of his four children and none of his grandchildren has ever been inoculated, vaccinated or immunised.

## EDINBURGH MEETING ARRANGED

The Edinburgh Personal Health Association, Kingston Clinic, Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh 9, has arranged for the League's Secretary to speak at their meeting on January 15th, 1957, on "The Truth about Vaccination".

Thirteen years ago, following the smallpox scares of 1942 in Glasgow, Fife, and Edinburgh, Miss Loat addressed a series of meetings in Edinburgh and Glasgow, arranged by Mr. Jas. C. Thomson. Kirkcaldy anti-vaccinists also arranged a meeting on learning that Miss Loat was coming North. In 1951 she again spoke in Glasgow, this time at the invitation of the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society.

It is hoped that Scottish supporters of our cause who can manage to do so will attend the meeting on January 15th, at 7 p.m. Further particulars from Miss Hislop, Secretary of the Personal Health Association, Kingston Clinic, Edinburgh 9.

# 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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