

DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

J. PENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

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SALT LAKE CITY, JAN. 11, 1900.

BAD LOGIC KILLED.

That "doctors differ" is an adage that has become axiomatic. But some doctors do not allow unprofessional persons to differ with them, and become so angry and dogmatic as to be on the verge of dementia. In such a condition their powers of ratiocination are not increased. If we may not safely discuss a matter of medicine we may perhaps touch on a question of reasoning without incurring medical anathemas.

The "News" has refrained from discussing the merits or demerits of vaccination. It has advised against the disposition to override roughshod the will of the people as expressed by the last Legislature. It has protested against the efforts to make compulsory an operation, the effects of which are doubtful, and on which medical authority is divided. It has advised those who believe in vaccination to consult trusted and responsible physicians, rather than avail themselves of a cheap, wholesale business for which nobody is responsible.

And on account of this some members of the medical fraternity are up in arms. What is their pleasure? Is the voice of the Legislature not to be heard? Are both the legislative and the executive powers to be vested in a board of health? Is it wrong to advise people to consult responsible physicians?

The "News" is perfectly willing to concede the overwhelming intellectual superiority of its medical critics, but their logic is bad. It may need vaccination. They argue that because deaths from smallpox have been fewer since the introduction of vaccination in some countries, therefore vaccination is a preventive of that disease. Now, if they will turn to any handbook of logic, they will find that among the fallacies of reasoning is one which argues that one thing is the cause of another, simply because they are co-existent, or because one precedes the other. It would, for instance, be a fallacy to argue that because there was a thunderstorm at the time of a conflagration therefore the lightning had set the house afire. But it is an equally great fallacy to argue that because the death rate has fallen off since the "discovery" of vaccination, therefore vaccination is the cause of this decline. Non sequitur. Have improved sanitary conditions in other respects nothing to do with the improved conditions?

It is well known that black death before the potatoes were transplanted to Europe played terrible havoc in various European countries, including Sweden. It is also a fact that the death rate of that terrible disease has not been so great in later centuries as it was in the fourteenth, for instance. Must we then conclude that the lowering of the death rate is due to the introduction of the tuber as food? What an absurdity! Certainly, but it is not greater than the absurdity of the logic that would rest compulsory vaccination on tables comparing the modern death rate to that of a century ago, without regard to improved hygienic conditions.

The "News" only demands fair play. A cause that needs misstatements and halting logic for its advancement cannot command general respect.

THE DOCTORS' DICTUM.

If we desired to give place to all the communications that come to us against the action of the medical and educational boards of this city, and letters endorsing the attitude of the Deseret News, we could fill this paper every day for some time with such articles and correspondence. It is impossible for us to do this and publish the current news. We devote so much of our columns today to this question pro and con, because it is the great topic of the times in this region. We would like our readers to study carefully the report of the committee of the medical society in another part of this paper, then we ask them to notice particularly a few points that are important:

In the first place the report offers "an introductory," an article by Dr. Ernest Hart; but we fail to find any indication as to where it begins and where it ends. No one can tell from reading it, what is said by Dr. Hart and what by the committee. If the latter had not stated that Dr. Hart's article was "introductory," we might have concluded that the whole report was made up from its text. As it is the public is left in the dark on that point. It is stated that "efficient vaccination in infancy affords an almost absolute immunity from smallpox up to about ten years of age, and after that date the operation must be efficiently repeated."

That "absolute immunity" is contradicted by the experience of thousands of people during smallpox epidemics. Advocates of vaccination themselves furnish indisputable evidence to the contrary. We have before us a report of the health officer at Clayton, New Mexico, which was published in the New England Medical Monthly. It speaks of cases of confluent smallpox, some of which proved fatal under his own practice, the patients having

been "successfully vaccinated with bovine virus," obtained from recognized standard sources. He argues in favor of repeated vaccinations, applied "as often as it will take, changing the system to its fullest extent." So much for "absolute immunity."

Now as to the decrease of smallpox since vaccination has been adopted in countries named. The report of the committee, or the article from Dr. Hart, we cannot tell which, speaks of the "marvelous reduction in the mortality from fifth diseases, and increase in the average length of life" during the last fifty years. Do the doctors mean to say that all "filthy diseases" have been checked and reduced because of cowpox vaccination? If not, is it not reasonable to believe that sanitary regulations and hygienic rules have been efficacious as to smallpox, just the same as to other prevalent disorders? On this point, we quote the following from Bulletin de L'Academie de Medicine, page 51:

"M. Le Fort, the eloquent and distinguished professor of surgery in Paris, in his address to the Academy of Medicine on January 18th, 1891, although a warm advocate of vaccination, exposed the fallacy of attributing the relative immunity of Germany from smallpox since 1874 to the influence of the law passed in that year. He showed that from 1877 to 1882 the number of deaths from smallpox in Prussia had increased each year, until they reached 1,091 in 1882. The following year, on November 13th, a fresh ordinance was issued to promote more stringent isolation; this edict has been ignored by those who seek to place exclusively to the credit of vaccination, whatever reduction of smallpox has taken place in Prussia. M. Le Fort quotes this ordinance as follows:—'The local police are to extend isolation of smallpox patients not only to the apartment, but also to the whole house in which the patient is. This isolation is to be continued after the removal of the patient to hospital and until after the completion of disinfectant procedures. Any intentional violation of this regulation will be punished by imprisonment.'"

"Since this regulation was put in force, the smallpox death-rate has progressively declined, and in 1886 there were only 143 deaths."

We give place in another part of this issue of the "News" to an article which will throw light on this subject, from the pen of a local practitioner. Compare the report of the committee and that article together, and form your own conclusions. Whatever they may be, the fact remains that whether the present method of vaccination is any better than the old discarded styles, which were enforced by law but are now denounced even by the medical fraternity, there is no law to compel vaccination in any form in this State and those who attempt to crowd it upon unwilling people do so without authority. And we are of the opinion that if they do not desist they will raise a storm about their ears which will prove to be decidedly unpleasant. The opinions of doctors are to be viewed with respect, but not bowed down to with awe when they are opposed by facts, figures and experience. In any event, opinion is one thing, force to make that opinion obligatory in practice is another thing. The "News" has not opposed vaccination for those who choose to adopt it, but is against its unlawful and tyrannical imposition upon those who detest it.

DON'T BECOME EXCITED.

The question was raised by the New York Sun, a short time ago, whether the American people were not affected by a wave of hysteria. We were reminded this morning of that query, by the attitude of some members of the Medical society of this city, who seem to be in a state of agitation that throws them off their mental balance. The Deseret News has questioned the right of the board of education and also of the board of health to force upon the unwilling portion of the public something that the Legislature of the State rejected and refused to enact. The "News" has also given place to communications from gentlemen who are opposed to the system of vaccination now in vogue. This is the sum and substance of our offending.

But there are some members of the medical faculty who cannot distinguish between the statements of correspondents over their own signatures, and the editorial utterances of the paper in which they are published. We will not accuse them of "ignorance" nor apply to them the sweet names with which they have saluted the editor of this journal. We are simply sorry that they do not know any better. We think they should guard themselves against that hysteria that the Sun speaks of, and not give way to the paroxysms which some of them have exhibited.

At the meeting of the Medical society held on Wednesday evening, the Deseret News came in for a large share of professional attention, and those persons who took it for granted that this paper would not publish a report of the conclusions arrived at by that society, indulged in some further hallucinations concerning the attitude and utterances of the "News." We publish the report gratuitously, as we would have printed such arguments as might have been furnished from their side of the question which is now momentous in this State. It is evident that their reading of the Deseret News has not been any more careful than their researches on the vaccination question. If they had studied the matter without bias, they would probably not be so dogmatic in their declarations, nor so intemperate in their attacks upon those who have the hardihood to differ with them.

The question that concerns the public now is not the personal reputation nor the medical status of those doctors who oppose vaccination, but the force and correctness of their statements of fact and the deductions from their arguments. These have not been met by the high and mighty men who assume to have acquired all the knowledge and wisdom in relation to this subject, and who can only reply by branding their opponents as "agitators," "ignorant" and "disreputable."

The Deseret News has abstained from offering arguments on the main question of the virtue or otherwise of the present alleged preventive of smallpox. In the course of a long experience and considerable research on this question, we have been able to obtain considerable information on the subject, but have left to others the task of presenting statements and reasonings in op-

position to the latest custom adopted by the orthodox among the faculty. Our position will be better stated perhaps by quotations from editorials in the "News" than in any other way, and we present a few to show how our hysterical critics have been mistaken.

On January 5th, we said:—
The Deseret News does not wish to prevent any person from resorting to vaccination or to any other supposed remedy for the spread of disease. It is opposed to assaults upon the liberty of the citizen to the extent which some reckless people propose. The quarantine is frequently a necessity. It should be strictly observed when imposed by the proper authorities. Schools and public gatherings should be suspended when absolutely necessary. We do not believe, however, that there is any reason for such extreme measures at present.

Also:
The "News" has before this called attention to the fact that none but a trusted physician should be allowed to experiment with the children, and that only after a thorough examination of their physical condition. The physician should be responsible. If wholesale vaccination by some cheap operator is to be demanded, a bitter conflict will ensue. There is some talk now of the formation of an anti-vaccination society for the purpose of fighting to a finish every effort at compulsion.

On December 21, 1899, we remarked:
The question of the benefits or otherwise of the vaccination practice, is one worthy the close attention of the medical faculty. We are aware that in the orthodox school of medicine it is considered a settled thing. Properly graduated doctors have been trained to view the matter in this light. They are like graduates in orthodox theology in this respect. The idea that these so-called settled theories are open to dispute, causes a satisfied smile upon the contented countenances. But the alleged "science" of medicine has been subject to so many radical changes, the experience of one age entirely upsetting the professional knowledge of previous periods, that progressive minds ought to be open to further light and be very careful not to be too tenacious as to the past.

This from the News of Dec. 19:
It will be seen at a glance with the eyes of common sense, to say nothing of legal penetration, that the boards of health have no such powers under the statutes as the State board claims to possess. The Board of Education in this city is also utterly destitute of power, under the law, to compel the vaccination of school teachers and school children. There is a penalty provided in the law against a person having control of a child between 8 and 14 years of age who wilfully fails to send the child to school, if the child is in proper physical and mental condition. It is not required that the child shall be immune from any disease, nor that it has been treated for the purpose of making it immune. Children may be expelled from the public schools for conduct which justifies such expulsion, but among the offenses for which this is permissible non-vaccination is not included.

From the News Dec. 18:
That is the great point now in consideration. The Deseret News does not wish to prevent people from being vaccinated who wish to adopt the practice, but does most emphatically protest against the presumption by which public officers attempt to exercise powers not conferred upon them by law.

And this from the "News" of Dec. 16:
At the last session of the Legislature, a determined attempt was made to secure the passage of a law for compulsory vaccination. It failed because of the popular protest against it. There is now a scheme on foot to enforce this obnoxious regulation without the authority of law. We warn its promoters that it will be vigorously resisted. That it can be accomplished through the Legislature, they must try to force upon the public by power they assume to exercise. The people have rights as well as public officers have. The liberties of citizens must not be trampled upon.

Let those who believe in vaccination practice or submit to it if they choose, but keep your hands off those who vehemently object to it and refuse to permit you to tamper with their child. That is the issue today. Also, in order to enforce this tyrannical measure, stop trying to frighten the public! So far there is no earthly reason for a panic and we trust there will be no occasion for fear in the future.

THE ENGLISH EXCITEMENT.

A writer in the North American Review apparently expresses a Russian opinion of the aims and purposes of Great Britain in carrying on the present campaign in Africa. The writer says the intention is to acquire supremacy in the Indian ocean and the Persian gulf. The tightening of the grasp on South Africa gives England new strength on the Indian ocean, bringing her nearer to India, to the Persian gulf, to Arabia and the far east.

The rumors to the effect that Russia is massing troops on the borders of Afghanistan, preparatory to a descent upon Herat may have substantial foundation, if Russia is disposed to secure some share of influence in the Indian ocean. She can do so only by pushing southward through Afghanistan and Persia to the Persian gulf. It is highly probable that the Russian government is contemplating some such step. Whether the time to carry it out has come, is an entirely different question. Russia is wont to accomplish her purposes by diplomacy rather than by wars of conquest.

It is significant, though, that all over the world, the bear and the lion meet. One can hardly move without arousing the ire of the other. No matter where Great Britain goes in order to find room for her millions, Russia appears to have interests that have to be considered. It is the same with Russia. She meets British interests at every step. And yet the two powers have continued to expand over the face of the earth, until there is but little room for others. It is a peculiar situation facing the twentieth century.

The British people evidently feel instinctively what is at stake at present. The news of General White's successful resistance of the Boer attack on Ladysmith has not acted as oil on the troubled waters. The masses demand a vigorous war, and a successfully conducted campaign. They demand a vigorous government. Even the conservative press is clamoring for a change in the situation. That all this is due to hysterical excitement is not probable. The English people have borne with patience reverses of their generals and the loss of many valuable lives in long, tedious campaigns, assured that success would finally be theirs, even if it took years of costly effort. But it is different now. The entire people have, seemingly, a premonition that further reverses would perhaps be disastrous. The Transvaal war is a conflict not only with the two pigmy republics, but with the mighty

enemies of Great Britain. To win is to maintain the superiority so dearly established; to lose would be to have to defend that superiority against mighty rivals. Hence the anxiety, the excitement, the agitation which are hardly warranted by any of the African war events so far.

A MENACE TO HEALTH.

Mayor Mayburg, of Detroit, not long ago called attention to a fact which ought to be of more concern to boards of health than the attendance at school of children not poisoned by cowpox. As quoted in the Sanitarian for January, he said:

"As I was going home last night on a car that was shamefully overcrowded, it occurred to me that the local board of health might very well take up the matter and give the people relief, especially just now, when there is so much disease prevalent in the city."

"The board of health posts signs all over the city forbidding people to spit on the sidewalks and in the cars, and I think that any physician will agree that there is more danger of contagion from riding in one of these densely packed cars than from inhaling the dust of dried sputum. Every day we see cars packed so full that the people in them can barely move. The doors are closed, the air becomes foul, the people breathe in each other's breath and if there should happen to be any lurking contagious disease in the crowd I should think it would have a better chance of spreading than if the man spit all over the sidewalk for a mile."

NOT INFALLIBLE.

The Medical Record of January 6th prints the following paragraph which is apropos of the heated discussion on the smallpox scare:

"No end of trouble has been caused in various parts of the country during the past year or two by confusion in the minds of various physicians between variola and varicella. The latest case of the sort was at Dixon, Ill., where numerous cases of smallpox occurred in the course of six weeks, but were all diagnosed as chickenpox, the mistake not being discovered until there had been nearly one hundred cases. Recently a mistake the other way was made by a physician in a train between Chicago and New York. He notified the conductor that there were two cases of smallpox aboard, and the conductor telegraphed the news ahead to Pittsburgh. When the train arrived there it was held, and policemen would not permit any of the passengers to alight. The city physician examined the patients, two children, found they were ill with nothing more serious than chickenpox, and the train was released. The passenger who had caused the commotion by declaring the cases to be smallpox was a physician from Kansas, and fearing that the passengers would carry out their promise to make it pleasant for him the rest of the journey, he waited over for another train."

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"We do not want the editor of the 'News' killed physically." So says the great genius that desired the aforesaid editor "muzzled or killed." Thanks. It is gratifying to know that this editor is to be let live "physically." As to the muzzling part no explanation is given. But we are grateful even for this small favor. We breathe again.

Here is a comment of the Denver Field and Farm which fits some places nearer here than the Colorado capital: "It is enough to bring on an attack of chills to read of some little town back in Illinois or some other State having large manufacturing interests while a big town like Denver has no such industries at all. Still we glean happiness by constantly paying homage to the east and freight assessments to the railroads. We are great lobsters, we are."

A caricature of spanking is held by the French courts not to be indecent. Certainly not in France.

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Admiral Dewey has been presented with a loving cup, the gift of American children. He can have the satisfaction of knowing that the children honor him for his achievements with-

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out a thought of finding flaws in his plans

A few days ago the London papers asserted that Gen. Methuen was in poor health. Now he is recalled, with the statement that his mind is unbalanced. It is also stated today by the London papers that Gen. Buller is in poor health. What next?

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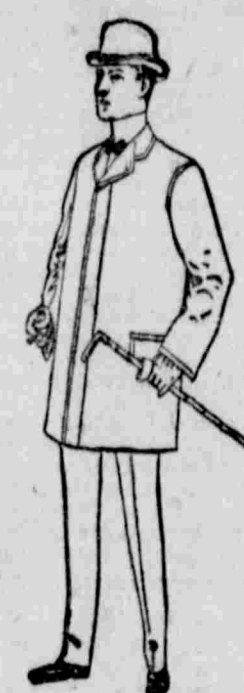
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Men's all wool Suits that sold regularly for \$12.00, now—	\$9.00	Men's fine Overcoats that sold regularly for \$18.00, now—	\$13.50
Men's all wool Suits that sold regularly for \$15.00, now—	\$11.00	Men's fine Overcoats that sold regularly for \$20.00, now—	\$15.00
Men's all wool Suits that sold regularly for \$18.00, now—	\$13.50	Men's fine Overcoats that sold regularly for \$25.00, now—	\$19.00
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