

Or a narrow-minded bigot
Who accepts without a reason
Any absurd thing priests tell him.
Thus is offered health and freedom
In this Oregon Elysium.
But the measure of prosperity
Depends somewhat upon industry.

An Anti Heard From.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

I see by your report of a local (Silverton) meeting that in the discussion upon "Vaccination" there was not sufficient argument offered for the "antis." This is rather unusual. I have often seen meetings where the "pros" failed to respond to the challenge to debate. It is a large subject, and though forced upon the interest and attention of thousands at the present time by health(?) boards, I will not presume to ask the use of your space to present my views, or at least not more than a mere outline of them. I tried for over twenty years to see both sides of the subject, but have grown to be an active partisan of the opposition, and a few years ago I summed up the following forty "vaccine points:"

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW OF VACCINATION.

- 1 Source of the disease—or its germ.
- 2 What the result will be in any case.
- 3 Who can be safely vaccinated.
- 4 Who will die from its effects.
- 5 How to make it safe or harmless.
- 6 What proportion of cases prove fatal.
- 7 That it ever prevented smallpox.
- 8 Who is and who is not liable to smallpox.
- 9 How many who die of smallpox have been vaccinated—the facts are suppressed.
- 10 How to get a safe, pure virus.
- 11 Whether even a so-called pure virus could be used without serious risks.
- 12 How often it should be done to protect.
- 13 How long its influence for good(?) or evil lasts.
- 14 How to decide when to repeat it—whether as often as it will take, or in 2, 5 or 7 years.
- 15 How far it would have done away with smallpox unaided by sanitation.
- 16 What legal or moral right there is "to do evil that good may come."
- 17 Why law should coerce acceptance of a medical superstition if not a religious dogma.
- 18 Why, if "cleanliness is godliness," disease-mongering is not deviltry.
- 19 Why doctors who vaccinate denounce spreading children's diseases as "the grossest wrong."
- 20 Why the doctors will not listen to reason and reform except that "the root of all evil" is in it.

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT VACCINATION.

- 1 That it is a filth disease—a cowpox.
 - 2 That it is not related to smallpox.
 - 3 That its course may be mild or severe.
 - 4 That it may cause death by erysipelas or pyæmia.
 - 5 That it is always a risky business and a filthy fad.
 - 6 That fatalities are not so reported, but covered up.
 - 7 That many of the vaccinated take smallpox.
 - 8 That many unvaccinated never do.
 - 9 That thoroughly vaccinated persons do die of smallpox—lots of cases recorded.
 - 10 That syphilis can be conveyed with it.
 - 11 That infantile syphilis increased in England (1853 to 1883) in proportion to vaccination.
 - 12 That many English towns have quit it.
 - 13 That Leicester (England) has fought off smallpox for ten years without it.
 - 14 That sanitation and isolation deserve all the credit and vaccination none.
 - 15 That compulsion is unjustifiable, and taxation without education is tyranny.
 - 16 That the present law can't enforce vaccination.
 - 17 That law cannot properly deal with what it cannot define—i. e., vaccination.
 - 18 That doctors who know most about it think the worst of it.
 - 19 That if those who do it could be made to pay for damages they would soon quit.
 - 20 That those who are well need not a physician, but those that are sick.
- I challenge the other side to give any convincing proof that I am wrong on one in forty. There is no royal road to education, no cheap and easy short cut, and so there is no charm, or trick, or fetish by which we can dodge disease and promote health. The one way to health (wholeness) is by conformity to laws or conditions that favor it, and I stand firmly on the rock that we cannot gain health and advantage by "disease-mongering" or trying to "beat the devil at his own game." If you can find space for my forty points, many may find them handy to pocket for reference and useful in argument.

Yours truly,
E. B. FOOTE, JR., M. D.
New York, Feb. 17, E. M. 300.

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Dr. J. H. Greer, the author, is a practicing physician in Chicago, is Professor of Genito-Urinary Diseases in the College of Medicine and Surgery, Physician-in-Chief to the Harvard Medical Institute, and has written many works of value to the profession and public.

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