

The fourth case which shows up in marked contrast to the three just mentioned was that of a man aged thirty, who had been successfully vaccinated as a child. He had a very mild attack of "discrete" smallpox, the skin-eruption was not extensive, and his symptoms were few. He was feverish for only three days, and thereafter entered on his stage of convalescence, making a rapid and uneventful recovery. Here the effect of the old vaccination is noticeable, and while not altogether immune, owing to the time which had elapsed since the vaccination, yet he was afforded a very considerable degree of protection, and was affected by the disease in an appreciably modified form.

As evidence that vaccination affords absolute protection against smallpox is the fact that of the five people in constant attendance upon these patients not one acquired the disease, although living continually in an atmosphere and amongst surroundings which were absolutely impregnated with the contagion of the disease. These five people were all protected, one, it is interesting to note, by a former attack of smallpox when a child, the remaining four by recent successful vaccination. They adopted no special precautions to safeguard themselves, being confident that they were absolutely immune against the disease, and such proved to be the case.

These observations, then, confirm the claims that have been made in favour of vaccination:—

- (1.) Recent successful vaccination is an absolute protection against smallpox.
- (2.) Successful vaccination in the past will afford some degree of protection, depending on time which has elapsed since the vaccination was performed.

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