

formed earlier, the child would not only suffer less, but there would be less difficulty in the operation. The result has fully answered my expectations: I find many advantages in the early performance of the operation; the principal are, the passive state of the little patient, and the thinness of the lips. The common suture I think preferable to the pins, which, with a proper bandage to keep up the cheeks, is all that is necessary. I operate as early as the third week; and on the fourth day from the operation, the ligatures may generally be removed: but respecting this, there must necessarily be variety in different cases.

These remarks may be considered by some as trifling; but if they tend in the least to diminish the sufferings of the child, and at the same time give less impediment to the operator, I think you will deem them worthy of notice.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your very humble servant,

T. PURTON.

Alcester, Sept. 12, 1800.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

THE testimony of many respectable practitioners, and my own experience, having convinced me that the Cow-pock disease is less violent and less dangerous than the Small-pock in its mildest form; also that it is a sure preventive of the Small-pock, if resorted to previous to Small-pock infection; and if my opinion is correct respecting the period when Small-pock becomes infectious by the atmosphere, I shall be able to prove that it will *prevent*, although the person may have received that infection two or three days. It is my present opinion that Small-pock becomes infectious many hours before the eruption is manifest on the skin. However this may really be, is not easily determined; and I know much diversity of opinion exists on the subject. But the principal object of this letter is to offer for your insertion some facts respecting the Cow-pock, which occurred in one family under my own observation, believing that some of the attending circumstances were rather peculiar; and although the general opinion of the most discerning of the profession, as well as of the public, now preponderates in favour of the new disease, yet as objections and prejudices are still opposed to its progress, I trust I shall not be accused

cused of supererogation if I endeavour to throw my mite into the scale.

Master Teschemaker, 10 years of age, recently arrived from the West Indies, was attacked with fever on the 2d of July last; on the 4th, a variolous eruption appeared on the skin, with every appearance of a violent disease taking place. There were at this time four other persons in the house, relatives and attendants, who had not had the disease. I advised that they should immediately be inoculated with Cow-pock matter. They had not heard of the new disease, and of course did not at once adopt what I recommended; however, on the 6th, two of them, Mr. and Mrs. Krebs, adopted what I advised; and on the 7th, one other, a Negro woman. The fourth said he had Small-pock in the West Indies. On the 9th, Mr. K's arm manifested the impression of the disease; on the 12th, I found the pulse accelerated about 10, and his tongue a little affected. These symptoms continued about three days; the arm soon after scaled, and he became perfectly well. Mrs. K's arm did not show the same marks of disease until the 11th. On the 15th, it became very much inflamed, and fever occurred in about the same degree as in Mr. K. but she had much more head-ach, which I attributed in some degree to extreme anxiety and watchfulness, she having from Master Teschemaker's first attack attended him day and night unremittingly, and he was now in great danger. On the 16th, a pustule appeared on her leg, but the peculiar form and character I cannot describe, it having been broken very early by some external violence; I imagine by rubbing or striking the other leg against it.

This pustule on the leg seems to confirm Dr. Woodville's opinion, that such may be produced by persons inspiring a variolated atmosphere while under the other disease. The inoculated part as well as the pustule continued inflamed for about ten days, and this lady became well.

I was in doubt for several days, whether the one inoculated last (namely, a day after this lady and gentleman) had received the infection; but on the 17th, ten days after the inoculation, (she continuing to breathe an atmosphere highly variolated) some inflammation took place on the arm, and at the same time a considerable degree of fever; but there were many reasons to induce me to think this fever was the effect of cold, and nightly attendance on the miserable sufferer with Small-pock. From this she gradually amended for some days; but on the 26th, nine days after the first attack of fever, and nineteen after the Vaccine Inoculation, and after three days of renewed attack of fever, accompanied with violent head-ach and back-ach, a variolous and very numerous eruption appeared: The fever now abated,

abated, and the inoculated arm still retained the appearance of local infection. It was now determined to send her to the Small-pock Hospital, where she recovered.

Master T—, the first subject mentioned with Small-pock died on the 27th. On the 31st, Master Swain, about 10 years of age, another of the four, (who said he had had the disease) began to sicken, and had a very violent and dangerous disease, but from which he is now recovered. Another young gentleman who had his passage in the same vessel, and who, most probably, caught his disease from the same source as my first, also died of Small-pock, within a few days of him; but this last was not under my own observation, having taken lodgings at a different part of the town.

Now, Sirs, I must take the liberty here to endeavour to impress on the Readers of your valuable Journal, (by a sort of recapitulation) the great utility of the new disease, for which the national gratitude ought, in some way or other, to be presented to Dr. JENNER. Here were six persons, all of them just arrived from the West Indies, two of whom died of Small-pock, two others recovered only by a very severe struggle and lasting deformity of the skin; while the two who were inoculated (in time) with the Vaccine matter, escaped by the means of a very slight disease, although they were for three days previous to their inoculation, and for some weeks after, in the house and in the chamber with those who had Small-pock violently.

That the Negro woman was inoculated with Cow-pock matter, and yet had Small-pock, is not to be imputed to any want of power in that to prevent, but from its having been deferred too long; and at the time of inoculation I expressed my doubt of its success.

If you think this detail worthy a place in your next Number, I shall hope it will furnish some additional proof of the utility of the new Inoculation; and also, that some of your Readers, of more experience and more discernment than myself, may make some deductions from these facts, to the further elucidation of this most important discovery. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your's, most respectfully,

L. LEESE.

Throgmorton Street, Sept. 12, 1800.