

File No. 5366.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY,
SUB-DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

Baltimore, October 2, 1906.

Hon. W. Cabell Bruce,
City Solicitor,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

3870

Please find enclosed a letter from Messrs. Porter & Bœuwkes, attorneys at law, calling our attention to the statute in Article 43, title Health, Section 46, sub-title State Vaccine Agency, Code of Public General Laws, 1904. Messrs. Porter & Bœuwkes write in the interest of their client, Dr. Harry Gross, 1340 S. Charles St.

The Health Department with the co-operation of the school authorities has been endeavoring for years to adopt a plan that would be least inconvenient for the citizens, and to the school and health authorities in carrying out the law that the children shall be vaccinated in order to enter the public schools. It used to be the regulation that the children received certificates of vaccination from their physicians on entering school, and a record then made of every vaccination was all that was necessary throughout their entire public school life.

In 1899 when the city was first threatened by smallpox the special and regular vaccine physicians made reports to this office which showed that there were a very large percentage of the public school children who had never been vaccinated, although as far as we know every one of them presented a vaccination certificate on entering school. Upon careful inquiry it seemed clear to us that this fact was to be explained by the probability that many physicians would vaccinate a child and give a certificate of vaccination without waiting to see whether that vaccination was successful or not. It was also explained by the fact that vaccine virus that is made during the hot summer months, particularly August, was not as potent as that made in cooler months. And as the schools commenced their sessions in September it was this virus made in August that was probably used, and the number of successful vaccinations were less than it would have been later in the year.

And a further explanation is found in the fact that vaccine virus is kept by druggists and others at too high a temperature, which weakens it and frequently destroys its power altogether.