

File No. 5366, Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

In former years in the month of August this department placed advertisements in the papers calling the attention of parents and guardians to the law requiring the children to be vaccinated before entering school, and it gave the names and addresses of our vaccine physicians to better enable the parents to get the work done, but practically this availed nothing, because on the opening day of the school session children presented themselves to the teachers without vaccination certificates, and considerable confusion was produced by a large number of children who had to immediately go to the vaccine physicians, or to their private physicians, to be vaccinated, and because the children could not be enrolled in the schools until the vaccination certificates were presented. Now, inasmuch as it takes from five to seven days for a physician to know that his vaccination has been successful, the certificates given by the vaccine physicians, and by the private physicians on the day of the vaccinations in many instances proved incorrect, because the vaccinations did not take. In order then to avoid the confusion in the school work and to better insure the successful vaccination of the pupils the school and health authorities agreed upon the plan to admit the children at once into the school, and to have the certificates of vaccination of private physicians reviewed by the vaccine officers, and that the vaccine officers were not to give certificates of vaccination unless it could be shown that the vaccinations were successful.

The wording of the statute, above referred to, certainly does not give the health department authority to carry out the regulation that I have above described, and I now ask you if it will be necessary for this department to abandon this plan or regulation, and to carry out the letter of the law contained in the statute. Is there no power given to the Commissioner of Health to make such regulations that might be deemed necessary to carry out the law; namely, that children must be successfully vaccinated to enter the public schools?

By giving me an answer at your earliest possible moment you will greatly oblige,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) James Bosley, M. D.,

Commissioner of Health.