

mitting their best and purest bred heifers to be operated upon, except at a rate of compensation, which the insufficiency of the appropriation for the past year, would not justify.

Although a Merciful Providence has kept from our borders epidemics of small-pox, (only three cases having been received at the Pest Hospital at Baltimore during the year,) the virus as furnished by this Agency has been in quite active demand, and I think I can say, with pardonable pride, has grown in favor with the Medical Profession of the State.

During the year, 575 orders from physicians of different parts of the State have been filled, and the total amount of 5,914 quills, charged with virus, has been sent to these gentlemen without any charge whatever, to them personally. Although to each applicant a blank is furnished for the purpose of making a "report of results of vaccination." I regret to state that in very many instances these are not returned. From those returned however, I find that about ninety per cent. of vaccinations in primary cases are successful, thus giving, as the result of our work, to quite a large number of our future citizens, protection against the ravages of that terrible scourge, small-pox.

While it is fair to suppose that 5,000 have been successful out of the 5,914 vaccinations, we must not lose sight of the fact that still a great number are allowed through neglect or prejudice to go without this protection, and thus afford food for future epidemics. This suggests the importance of impressing upon the Legislative and corporate authorities of our State the necessity, as well as the wisdom, of inaugurating measures to secure effective vaccine protection to all our citizens, and to make the neglect to secure this protection a criminal offence. In our judgment, compulsory vaccination is the only effectual safeguard against the dangers entailed on our communities by neglect, by delay, by indifference, by prejudice, by ignorance and willfulness, and until such a law is passed, and rigidly executed, our cities and villages are and will ever be exposed to recurring epidemics.

To show that vaccination does decrease the death rate from small-pox, is hardly pertinent to this report, but as a matter of general interest the following statistics may serve a good purpose. In Scotland vaccination was made compulsory in 1864; for the ten years previous the yearly average of deaths from small-pox was 1,054. In 1865 it fell to 175; in 1867 to 124; in 1868 to 25.

In Ireland vaccination was made compulsory the same year. The average mortality from small-pox had been from