

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, March 26, 1752.

As the SMALL-POX has been of late Years very frequent, and is at all Times so much dreaded, in the American Colonies; the following Extracts concerning Inoculation, with the several Objections against the Practice of it, and Answers in Favour of it, may not be thought undeserving a Place in this Paper.

From the GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE for December, 1750.

Substance of a Pamphlet intitled, The Case of receiving the Small-Pox by Inoculation impartially consider'd, especially in a religious View; written in 1725, by Mr. David Some, of Harborough in Leicestershire, and publish'd this Month by Dr. Doddridge of Northampton.

THAT the Small Pox is not so fatal, when received by Inoculation, as it is in the natural Way, is demonstrated; and the Difference ascertained, by Algebraical Calculation, to be as 60 to 1 in Favour of Life; including the Chance of never having the Distemper in the natural Way, and all other Contingencies.

The Expediency therefore of Inoculation, as a probable Means of preserving Life in general, cannot be doubted; and the only remaining Question is, Whether with respect to Individuals the voluntary Risque of Life, by receiving a Distemper which may be fatal, is lawful.

Objections against the Lawfulness of Inoculation, with the Answers.

Objection 1. God is the Sovereign of Life, and he can preserve us, though Thousands fall on our right Hand and on our left. *Psal. xci.* We ought therefore solely to trust in the Wisdom of his Providence.

Answer. We have no Reason to expect extraordinary Interpositions of Providence in our Favour, if we neglect the most likely Methods for our Preservation; of which there are but two, either constantly to keep out of the Way of Infection, or to receive it by Inoculation. The first is in many Cases impossible; and therefore we have no Right to depend upon the Care of Providence, but in the Way of Inoculation, which in this View becomes our Duty. Nor can we, by this Practice, be said to bring a Distemper upon ourselves, which we might otherwise never have had; but rather to eradicate a Disease which lies latent in the Body: For if this is not the Case, no Eruption will be produced by Inoculation; nor any Inconvenience, other than a slight Uneasiness, and a few Days Confinement.

Obj. 2. But, allowing it to be lawful for a Person to receive the Small Pox by Inoculation, in Consequence of his own free Choice, it does not appear that Parents have a Right to determine in this Point for Children, who cannot judge for themselves.

Ans. If Parents do by their Children as they would be done by if they were in the same Circumstances, they cannot exceed the Bounds of paternal Authority; but nothing should be done contrary to the Inclinations of those, who are of sufficient Age to know the Nature and probable Consequences of this Practice.

Obj. 3. Inoculation therefore is not lawful, because it may bring others into Danger without their Knowledge; for a Person who brings this Distemper upon himself, knows not how far or how fatally he may spread the Infection.

Ans. A Person who receives the Small-Pox by Inoculation may more effectually prevent the Communication of it to others, than he who, by neglecting Inoculation, receives it in the natural Way; because he may either undergo the Operation in a Place where the Distemper already prevails, or in a House where all but the Person inoculated have had it already, and timely Notice may be given in

the Neighbourhood of what is doing: But a Person who suffers himself to continue perpetually liable to this Distemper, by not having been inoculated, may carry it into Places where it does not prevail, and into a Family in which none have had it, nor can be prepared to receive it before the Danger approaches.

Obj. 4. But has not every Disease it's Commission from God? and can any Precautions of our own prevent what he has determined?

Ans. If this Argument proves any Thing, it proves too much; for if, because Death can come neither sooner or later than God has appointed, no human Actions can either lengthen or shorten Life; it follows that I may safely venture upon Inoculation, without any Enquiry into it's natural Tendency either to preserve or to destroy.

Obj. 5. But though the Assent of our Reason be compelled by the Force of these Arguments in Favour of Inoculation, yet when the Event is past, the Danger imminent, and Death approaching, is it not probable that our Doubts will return, and the Thought of having hurried ourselves out of the World, and brought Distress upon our Family, Friends, and Dependents, fills our last Moments with Anxiety and Horror?

Ans. Dying indeed is a solemn Thing, and every Man should be careful to do nothing that may increase the Terror of that awful Event; but if the preceding Arguments appear to be conclusive, he, to whom Inoculation proves fatal, dies in the Exercise of his Duty, and has laid the best Foundation for peaceful Reflection: But he who shall die by the Small Pox received in the natural Way, after Conviction of the Expediency and Lawfulness of Inoculation, will certainly, and with Justice, accuse himself of having contributed to his own Death, and all the Distresses which follow to his Survivors.

Dr. Doddridge, in a Postscript to his Preface to this Treatise, remarks, "That it does not enter into that Part of the Question, how far the remote Consequences of Inoculation may affect the Health and Lives of those, who pass through the Distemper without any immediate Detriment;" and expresses a Desire to see this Part of the Question discussed by the Gentlemen of the Faculty.

Mr. Urban, *Surry, Dec. 21, 1750.*
UPON reading *The Case of Inoculation*, by Mr. Some, and published on Account of the Distemper raging in some Villages, I find Variety of conclusive Arguments for the Practice;—but, as it was written 25 Years since, it ought surely to have been publish'd sooner; for however ill the People more Northward may judge in so important a Question, we of the South want no Inducement to Inoculation; it is already sufficiently understood, even among our Villagers.

Several Years ago a noble Person, near *Guilford* in *Surry*, observing the Terror of the Country People on Account of the Small Pox, allowed Mr. Howard, a skilful Surgeon of that Place, the Sum of 40 s. for every one that he should inoculate and attend: Accordingly, he always kept some Pledgets tinsed with the Matter, in a shallow Silver Box, in a Bosom Pocket; by which he readily inoculated several, who having the Distemper very happily, and becoming well again, the Country People came every Market Day to have the Operation performed, when went home, kept themselves warm, drank Wine Whey, and in 8 Days took the Distemper; and so much Success attended the Practice, that it was a common Answer to their Acquaintance, of three or four hurrying along the Town together, that they were going to be inoculated.

This shews, that if the Gentlemen of the Faculty would publish their Readiness to perform the Operation, and give their Attendance at a reasonable Price, or some worthy Gentlemen would as above

defray the Charge, there is no Doubt so advantageous and rational a Proposal would be readily accepted; especially by the lower Ranks, as the not having had the Small Pox often occasions their losing a good Place, that being generally the first Question asked of a Servant offering himself.

N. W.

From the MAGAZINE for May, 1750.

S I R, *Sterburn, May 10, 1750.*
READING in your last the Remarks on Inoculation, is the Occasion of my desiring the Favour of you to publish my Thoughts on the same Subject. Without any Skill in Physic or Surgery, I ventured to inoculate five of my own Family; which had a very happy Effect. This Success, and the well attested Accounts which I have had from others, make me wish that Inoculation was brought into a general Practice; which I believe it would have been long since, if it had not been disgraced by the scandalous Negligence of some Operators. I have known a very eminent Inoculator direct some young Ladies, who desired to be inoculated, to attend him at the Town where he lived, which was very large, and full of the Small Pox; he there inoculated them as soon as they came from a long fatiguing Journey, I suppose in the same Dress in which he received the infectious Matter, and then lodged them in a House which had been a Lazarette for the Distemper. The Success was answerable to his Care, something worse than Chance Medley.

Some, who practice Inoculation, think they are very careful if they exchange their upper Garment after receiving the infectious Matter; I think even shifting the whole Dress is not sufficient Caution: As Infection is drawn in with the Breath, why may it not be returned by Respiration, as retained in the Pores? since we find, if the Skin is touched with Oil of Amber, or strong Perfume, it will long retain the Smell.

The good Success of Inoculation chiefly depends on the Care that is taken to prevent a double Infection, which requires more Caution than I have ever known practis'd; but I think, in a Case where Life, and perhaps the Happiness of a Family, are at Stake, no Care should be neglected. The infectious Effluvia of the Disease are very subtle, may be long retained, and easily conveyed to a great Distance. I have known the Infection retained in Beds more than a Year, and conveyed many Miles in Cloaths and dry Goods, and brought a great Distance by Dogs and Cats coming from infected Houses. I knew several Persons infected at the same Instant of Time, by the burning some infectious Matter; tho' one of those was in the green Field, a Quarter of a Mile distant from the House where it was burnt. I think it reasonable to believe, that Infection may be conveyed in the Air, as far as any Matter can affect the Sense of Smelling.

Such Instances as these shew, that any one, who has been near any Place where the Disease is, cannot be certain that he is not infected; and it therefore should be a Pre-Infection, Inoculation would then be an Injury instead of an Advantage, by raising a Complication of Diseases. There have been Instances of those, who at the same Time have had both the distinct and confluent Kind, one by Inoculation, the other by the common Infection; which Cases have always proved dangerous. I therefore advise every one, who has been where there was a Possibility of Infection, to perform a Quarentine in a Place free from all Danger of Infection. If any one, in order to such Quarentine, removes from his usual Abode, let it not be so far as to occasion any considerable Alteration in the Air; perhaps to exchange a foggy Air for a serene, or a serene for a foggy, may be equally improper.

I shall leave it to the Physician to direct the necessary Preparation; I have known Tar-water used (and thought to be very advantageous), long before