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MY EXPERIENCE WITH SMALL-POX AND INTERNAL VACCINATION

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Few homœopathic doctors get to air their troubles in a Health Board trial. But doing so, when odds seem against you, and still you are vindicated, acts as a boost and a benefit.

One winter, a number of years ago in our city, we had at one time over seventy-five cases of smallpox. The city health physician and local doctors recommended immediate vaccination, in the arm, of all school children.

Here I was, a regularly licensed physician in Oklahoma, but I believed in internal vaccination. Though it seemed mandatory that the vaccination be external, I fortified myself with legal information and began giving internal vaccination. My first fifty patients I gave one powder of *Variolinum* 12x., three times daily for three days. I took powders myself. *After the first fifty patients however, I decided to change to Vaccinum 12x., three powders each day for three days.* During this epidemic it fell my lot to treat twenty cases and to these twenty cases I gave two powders of *Variolinum* 30x. for four of five days. Among these twenty cases, two were black or confluent smallpox. One of my cases, a woman, had black, hæmorrhagic smallpox. She was very low for nine days; all her hair came out, and all the tissue fell off her nose and ears. She was

a hideous looking sight, more like a corpse than a living person.

Nearly one-half of my cases were treated in the city pest-house, and here especially there was a chance for comparison of the homœopathic and the "old school" method. Not one case receiving homœopathic care died, while the "old school" doctors lost twenty percent of their cases.

I gave about three hundred internal vaccinations ; five to adults acting as practical nurses ; to the man who installed the telephone and lights in the pest-house ; to mothers who slept with their children while they had smallpox in its severest form. All of these people, exposed daily, were immune.

During this epidemic we had, in our city, a regular, licensed, "old school" physician who vaccinated himself on the arm with the glycerinated virus point. It did not take, and two weeks later he vaccinated himself again. It took in a very mild form. A year later, to make sure he was immune for life, he took variolid. Within two years, however, he took smallpox in a very severe form and nearly died.

About the third or fourth week of this epidemic I had a peculiar experience. I had left some of the internal vaccination powders for a man in a rooming house. He was in first class physical condition, but seemed to have an idiosyncrasy for the powder. By the third powder he had a headache, was sick at his stomach with a desire to vomit. On the second day he broke out with a small, red rash. I was called, and diagnosed it as a physiological disturbance caused by the powder, a term known as vaccinoid. A couple of hours later the city health officer called on my patient and diagnosed it as varioloid, and much to the patient's disgust, removed him to the city pest-house. The same day I was handed a summons to appear before the city health board, charged with failure to report a case smallpox which had been taken to the pest-house. I was asked to prove

that the insignificant looking little powders I was giving were as effective as the arm point vaccination.

I hired a fine lawyer and he began studying smallpox and internal vaccination. To my surprise the second morning after taking the case, he told me that he wanted to take the powders. He visited my patient with me at the pest-house. We found, eighteen hours after the vaccination powders had been removed, that the eruption had entirely disappeared. Together, my lawyer and I studied, in minute detail, the preparation of the glycerinated virus. When the trial started he was "loaded to the brim" with information on smallpox.

He cross-examined the city doctor until he was completely befuddled. He pointed out that this was a severe epidemic, and that he, the city doctor, had lost a lot of cases. The doctor answered truthfully that he had lost about twenty. The lawyer asked if the case of mine had ever scaled off; or if there was ever any desquamation, and the doctor replied, "No." When asked if he knew what vaccinoid was, the doctor replied, "Yes, it's a fine, little powder which Dr. Bonnell states will make you immune to smallpox." Whereupon, my attorney told him that, according to his information, varioloid was a form of smallpox, and vaccinoid was a constitutional disturbance, produced upon a healthy body by giving, in a triturated, minute dose, the active pus from a smallpox pustule.

The court's attention was then called to similar cases in other courts, proving that homœopathic vaccination was equally as good, or better than the "old school" form of vaccination. He showed the court that more than twenty percent of the "old school" doctors' patients had died, and that all those treated homœopathically had lived. He proved that international vaccination was safe, and effective, and that our city physician was not as well informed on smallpox as he should have been. At his suggestion the case was promptly thrown out of court.

DEFINITION OF THE HAHNEMANN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION OF IOWA:

"Vaccination is the introduction of a virus into the system for the prevention of Smallpox, and is accomplished either by the administration of a proper preparation of the virus of smallpox through the mouth, or by introducing into the circulation the virus of cowpox by applying it to a freshly made scarification of the skin."

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY,
IOWA.

ED CANNING, FOR HIMSELF, AND IN BEHALF
OF ALL OTHERS, SIMILIARLY SITUATED,
WHO ARE TOO NUMEROUS TO BRING BEFORE
THIS HONORABLE COURT

VS.

THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE CITY OF
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, AND THE MEMBERS
THEREOF; AND THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT OF COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, AND
THE MEMBERS OF ITS BOARD OF EDUCATION.

} DECREE.

ON THIS 19TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1905, this cause comes on for hearing on the issues joined on the Petition and Supplemental Petition of the Plaintiffs, Ed Canning, Et Al, and the answers of the Defendants, the Board of Health of the City of Council Bluffs, and the members thereof; and the Independent School District Bluffs, Iowa, and the individual members of its Board of Directors; the Plaintiff appearing by Jacob Sims, A. T. Flickenger and Walter I. Smith; the Defendant, the Board of Health of the City of Council Bluffs, and the members thereof, appearing by S. B. Snyder, City Solicitor; and the Independent School District of Council Bluffs, and the Members of its Board of Directors, appearing by J. J. Stewart; and, the case being fully heard, tried, argued and finally submitted on the issues joined, the Court finds:

1. That the Boards of Health have the power to adopt and promulgate rules requiring those in attendance upon Public Schools, either as teachers, pupils, employees, or otherwise, to be vaccinated, at time when an epidemic of Smallpox is threatened or prevailing, and to enforce such rules accordingly; and reasonable latitude should be given to such Boards of Health in their efforts to prevent the spread of such disease.

2. That Boards of Health do not have the power to specify and enforce any recognized method of vaccination to the exclusion of others recognized and practiced by any standard School of Medicine, authorized or established under the laws of this State.

3. That for many years it has been taught by the Homœopathic School of Medicine that treatment by the administration of Variolinum, is equally or more effective as a preventive of Smallpox than vaccination by the sacrification method and that vaccination by the administration of Variolinum, or the Internal Method, has for many years been practised by the Homœopathic School of Medicine.

4. That the rules of the State Board of Health as set forth in the Cross-Petition of the Board of Health of the City of Council Bluffs and its members, in the case heretofore pending in this Court, entitled "The Independent School of Council Bluffs, by Its Board of Directors, vs. D. Macrae, Mayor, and Others" No. 14393 of this Court, were and are void, in that said State Board of Health had no authority under the Constitution and laws of this State to make said regulations, and in that the State Board of Health had no power or authority to require vaccination at any time by the method prescribed by any school of Medicine to the exclusion of the method approved by any reputable recognized and standard school of Medicine.

5. That the rule of the Local Board of Health of Council Bluffs, Iowa, set forth in the Cross-Petition heretofore referred to was and is against public policy, unreasonable and void that said Board of Health had no power or authority under the laws of Iowa to adopt the same and in that the same attempted to exclude children from the Public Schools who were unvaccinated by the sacrification method, irrespective of whether an epidemic of Smallpox existed or was threatened in Council Bluffs, or vicinity, and in that it attempted to require vaccination by sacrification, to the exclusion of vaccination by the administration of Variolinum, or the Internal Method, as approved, taught and practiced by the Homœopathic School, which is one of the standard Schools of Medicine of Iowa and the United States.

6. That under the record herein, it appears that at this time an epidemic of Smallpox is neither threatened nor prevailing in this community and there is no reasonable apprehension for danger with regard thereto.

7. THE COURT THEREFORE FINDS that the equities of this cause are with the Plaintiffs, Ed Canning and others, and that they are entitled to the relief prayed.

IT IS THEREFORE CONSIDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Court that the decree heretofore entered in said cause, 14393, be and the same is hereby cancelled and set aside and the Mandatory Writ of Injunction issued thereunder is cancelled and annulled.

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT THAT the Defendants, the Independent School District of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and its Board of Directors, did by their Answer properly filed herein, disclaim

all interest in the matters involved in this suit and ask that they be exempt from costs, and it further appearing that said Defendants have not resisted the relief sought or made cost herein,

IT IS CONSIDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT that the Plaintiffs, Ed Canning ET AL, do have and recover of and from the Defendants, the Board of Health of the City of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and the individual members of said Board, all the costs of this action, taxed at \$ 46.19 and that execution issue therefor : to all of which Defendants at the time excepted.

N. W. MACY

JUDGE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CHICKASHA, OKLA.

DISCUSSION

DR. MERCK : I would like to ask the doctor in what year that action was taken in Iowa and if it still holds.

DR. BONNELL (Chickasha, Oklahoma) : The year was 1905, in Iowa. It still stands.

DR. GRIMMER : I don't think we can judge much about this from our standpoint. The doctor has only given us proof positive of the wonderful powers of homœopathic protection against not only smallpox but it can be carried to many other epidemic diseases, and has been. Diphtheria and scarlet fever have demonstrated just as conclusively the protection offered by homœopathy.

What we must admire the doctor for is his staunch standing up for principle, being willing to go to the last ditch. It certainly makes every homœopath happy to see that, and it gives us spirit to go on and do our part when the showdown comes. It just shows, if one man can do what the doctor accomplished there against prejudice and heavy odds, how much more we can do when we are an organized group, and when we maintain our organization and support it for just such purposes. That is the one thing that we want to do.

DR. BOWIE : About that time, I went through an epidemic, and I also used the *Variolinum*. I did not have any court action, but they did make some trouble for me, and they finally accepted my vaccination.

DR. MOORE : There is one little sidelight on this. If an arm is vaccinated and it is desired to stop its action, *Thuja* will do that very promptly, so it will not develop into a vaccination or sore.

DR. SPALDING : In reference to the last speaker's remarks, I have seen *Malandrinum* do the same thing.

DR. MOORE : Arnica will take away the pain but it will not stop the vaccination.

DR. GRIMMER: *Malandrinum*, which the doctor mentioned, is really the remedy for the acute and dangerous results that sometimes take place in the blood. *Malandrinum* will reduce the fever and swelling and pain very rapidly, whereas *Thuja* is better adapted the chronic, long-lasting effects that come after vaccination.

DR. SINK: I would like to ask whether *Variolinum*, given in a case that has been vaccinated by the arm method, would not stop the violent action of it.

DR. BONNELL: In answer to Dr. Sink's question, I don't know whether I would be an authority on this, but we know in the army they require arm vaccination every three years, and where you don't have a severe "take," I guess they call it, it is a mild "take" on the arm and lasts only three or four years. Of the people I gave this internal vaccination to, I think about a dozen of them had been vaccinated six or seven years before, a mild vaccination on the arm, and they didn't want even that.

There is just one point about this experience, I knew this was coming. When you get 300 people in your city who have taken this powder and they tell their sisters and brothers and their friends on each side, it spreads like wild fire. I got so busy I had to wire three times to get more of the *Variolinum*. I didn't get enough. I thought five or eight ounces would be enough, but it didn't handle it. I became famous in two or three weeks. I am certain this experience has affected my whole life in the last twenty-five years in this city. They drafted me on the School Board afterward. I later became President of the Board.

We have two homœopaths in our city now, but the "old school" men never dare to bring up that one question about internal vaccination or saerification of the arm, we whipped them so thoroughly. The next week, on Thursday night, this lawyer and I took the case from the pest-house, that had been illegally thrown in there, and on the outside, before the meeting, we sold the Council on that thing and kicked the city physician out, and thirty days afterward he collected what he could and moved out of that locality. I had more red hair than I have now, and the "old school" men found out that "You had better not scratch that red-headed fellow to much because he will scratch back."

We have a very devout homœopathic doctor in Marshall, Missouri, and his brother-in-law was an "old school" man. At that time he was secretary of the County Medical Society. We have offices right across the street from each other. He said, "You know, my brother-in-law uses this in Marshall, Missouri. I don't believe he has ever had anyone take smallpox who took it." He inquired more about it. I couldn't get him to take it. I tried to vaccinate him with it, but wouldn't do it.

—*The Layman Speaks, October, 1953*