

THE POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

VOL. V.

JULY, 1930.

No. 58.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE QUESTION OF VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX	165
By J. D. ROLLESTON, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P.	
LOCAL ANÆSTHESIA IN RECTAL SURGERY	171
By W. B. GABRIEL, M.S.	
CRIME AND INSANITY	172
By W. NORWOOD EAST, M.D., M.R.C.P.	
EDITORIAL	174
POST-GRADUATE NEWS	175
REVIEWS	177
FELLOWSHIP OF MEDICINE AND POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—	
SPECIAL COURSES	iii

THE QUESTION OF VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE NORTH LONDON MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY ON JANUARY 8, 1930.

By J. D. ROLLESTON,

M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P.

Medical Superintendent, Western Fever Hospital, London.

TO be or not to be vaccinated or revaccinated, that is the question which we have to discuss to-night. Up to a few years ago the overwhelming majority of the profession, one might perhaps say all, with the exception of a few with a mental twist, would have applauded the witty retort of the late Sir William Osler when twitted by the Editor of the *Journal of the Anti-vaccination League* for his silence on the subject: "I

would like," said Osler, "to issue a Mount Carmel-like challenge to any ten unvaccinated priests of Baal, I will go into the next severe epidemic with ten vaccinated persons and ten selected unvaccinated persons. I should prefer to choose for the latter three Members of Parliament, three anti-vaccination doctors, if they could be found, and four anti-vaccination propagandists. I will make this promise: Never to jeer nor to gibe when they catch the disease, but to look after them as brothers, and for the four or five who are certain to die I will try to arrange the funerals with all the pomp and ceremony of an anti-vaccination demonstration."

What then has given rise to the change in our attitude to vaccination against smallpox? The answer is two principal facts. The first is the extraordinarily mild character of the prevailing epidemic of smallpox in this country, as shown partly by the low