

Transcription, March 2015:

*Leicester Chronicle and the Leicestershire Mercury* 75(3859) (31 Jan. 1885): 7f (anon.).

[p. 7f]

*Registration Statistics and Vaccination*, by A. R. Wallace, LL.D. (London: E. W. Allen, 4, Ave Maria Lane.)—In this little book, which is addressed “to members of Parliament and others,” Professor Wallace gives forty five years of Registration Statistics. He approaches the consideration of the subject in a judicial spirit, his arguments are clearly drawn, and the conclusions at which he arrives are deserving of serious consideration, remembering who and what the author is. These conclusions are “(1) Vaccination does not diminish small pox mortality, as shown by the 45 years of the Registrar-General’s statistics, and by the deaths from small pox of our ‘re-vaccinated’ soldiers and sailors being as numerous as those of the male population of the same ages of several of our large towns, although the former are picked, healthy men, while the latter include many thousands living under the most insanitary conditions. (2) While thus utterly powerless for good, vaccination is a certain cause of disease and death in many cases, and is the probable cause of about 10,000 deaths annually by five inoculable diseases of the most terrible and disgusting character, which have increased to this extent, steadily, year by year, since vaccination has been enforced by penal laws. (3) The hospital statistics, showing a greater mortality of the unvaccinated than of the vaccinated, have been proved to be untrustworthy; while the conclusions drawn from them are shown to be necessarily false.” Having arrived by close examination of facts and calm reasoning at these conclusions, Prof. Wallace solemnly urges upon members of Parliament “the immediate repeal of the iniquitous penal laws by which you have forced upon us a dangerous and useless operation—an operation which has admittedly caused many deaths, which is probably the cause of greater mortality than small pox itself, but which cannot be proved to have ever saved a single human life.” Without expressing a word as to the value or otherwise of the practice of vaccination, we repeat that these words ought not to be lightly passed over, seeing that they come from a man so eminent as Prof. Wallace.

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*The Alfred Russel Wallace Page*, Charles H. Smith, 2015.