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QA - 178

34-E-2

VACCINATION AND SERUM

Dear Brother,-

→ You ask for definite and concise information regarding what Sister White wrote about vaccination and serum.

This question can be answered very briefly for so far as we have any record,, she did not refer to them in any of her writings.

You will be interested to know however, that at a time when there was an epidemic of smallpox in the vicinity, she herself was vaccinated and urged her helpers, those connected with her, to be vaccinated. In taking this step Sister White recognized the fact that it has been proven that vaccination either renders one immune from smallpox or greatly ~~al~~ightens its effects if one does come down with it.

She also recognized the danger of their exposing others if they failed to take this precaution. <

I have been taking as a College subject this year, a class in rational remedies taught by Dr. Mary McReynolds. I know of no one who is more conscientious in following the "Testimonies" than she is. The question regarding vaccination and serum came up one day in the class, and she stated that its use was rational.

It is a fact that the body builds up defense against these diseases not only in human beings but in animals, and in putting into our bodies the serum from an animal that has had the disease we introduce this valuable element that resists the germs of the disease.

This question has been a very serious one in my own experience, for when I was vaccinated I received an infection that bothered me for several months. That is however very many years ago, and I think that with the modern methods, the danger of such infection is very much lessened.

At the Rusangu Mission in Africa, the smallpox was all about us and got into the school. After the students were vaccinated, we had not another case, and in no case did we see any ill results.

→ An uncle of mine, Elder D.A. Robinson, who labored as a missionary in India was conscientiously opposed to vaccination and refused to take it. He died an awful death with smallpox, and before he died he stated that he had made a mistake which was costing him his life. The rest of the family were vaccinated and suffered no ill effects from smallpox. <

I just refer to these experiences for you to consider what attitude you should take regarding this question.

D.E. Robinson

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