

Transcription (from hardcopy), January 2015:

Shrewsbury Chronicle (6 May 1898): 3c-d.

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‘Dr. Bond and the Anti-Vaccinators.’

To the Editor of the *Shrewsbury Chronicle*. Sir,—The Hon. Secretary of the Jenner Society (Dr. Bond), whose letter you published in the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* of April 23rd, is much disconcerted at the progress of anti-vaccination, not only in Gloucester, but throughout the United Kingdom, and is doing what he can, with zeal worthy of a better cause, to cope with the growing resistance to compulsory medicine. He has published letters in the *Lancet*, *Medical Press*, and *British Medical Journal*, urging his medical colleagues to come to his assistance and wield their pens in defence of the medical dogma of salvation by means of the inoculated disease known as cow-pox. Medical prestige is imperilled by cumulating proofs of the injurious effects of vaccination on the human constitution, and its failure either to arrest or mitigate various outbreaks, as shown by the small-pox epidemic at Middlesborough, where 94 out of every 100 of the population are vaccinated, where the latest Local Government Board return previous to the outbreak showed that only 7.2 per cent. of the births were unaccounted for in the matter of vaccination, and where the public vaccinators had received in bonuses, over and above their usual fees, no less a sum than £1,923 11s between 1877 and 1897, for the efficiency of their work. The medical profession, it need hardly be said, have not responded to Dr. Bond’s urgent appeals. Many of them know by previous experience that whenever they have introduced the Jennerian theory of protection in the Press their misleading statements have been speedily answered by crushing facts from the Registrar-General’s returns, and often from the writers’ own painful experiences. The only consolation Dr. Bond and those who agree with him have is that the insurrection against compulsory vaccination augments in force and in volume every day (as an instance of this, the experience at Middlesborough during the epidemic has so opened the eyes of the people there that they are forming a powerful branch of the National Anti-Vaccination League), and will continue to do so until the last vestige of enforced medication disappears from the statutes which it has so long disgraced. Dr. Bond has in other journals made the same statements concerning Dr. Alfred R. Wallace’s able work, but in no case has he attempted to criticise the facts, for chapter and verse are given for all the author’s contentions. I challenge Dr. Bond to disprove a single statement made in the quotation he refers to. Nothing was said about re-vaccination when vaccination was made compulsory, and it was the unanimous opinion of the medical profession that vaccination was a certain preventive of small-pox. Both Dr. Scott Tebb, M.A., in his “A Century of Vaccination, and What it Teaches,” just published by Swan Sonnenschein and Dr. Wallace conclusively prove that neither vaccination nor re-vaccination are any protection whatever

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against small-pox, and not all the ingenuity of Dr. Bond has induced the people of Gloucester to think so.—Yours, &c.,

Jas. R. Williamson.

42, Stibbington Street, London, N.W.

30th April, 1898.

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