

AN INSURANCE INCIDENT.—Under this heading, Dr. John B. Cowan relates, in the last number of the *Glasgow Medical Journal*, the case of a man aged 49, who, having proposed for assurance and being unable to state whether he ever had smallpoxor been vaccinated, had himself vaccinated on the left arm. The operator states that the patient had “the original marks of vaccination as distinct as you could expect to find them in a man between forty and fifty years of age who had not been vaccinated since childhood. I vaccinated him on the left arm; three places all took thoroughly, and he went through the whole process satisfactorily.” Seven months after re-vaccination, this man died of virulent smallpox. Dr. Cowan states that “in the experience of an assurance company which has carried on business for upwards of thirty years, no similar incident has occurred.” [Vaccination cannot be expected to protect more thoroughly than smallpox itself, and cases of death in a second attack of smallpox are not unheard of. We know that during the last epidemic in Edinburgh some of the worst cases were in those who had smallpox previously, and some of these died. [We have seen very sharp cases of secondary vaccinia caught from the cow within a comparatively short interval of each other. And interesting as the above case may be in a pathological point of view, it in no way invalidates the protective power of vaccination, or contradicts the ordinary view that death almost never occurs from smallpox after properly-performed vaccination—on the contrary, it rather confirms it.]—*Edenburg Medical Journal*.

ON THE NATURE OF THE SPLEEN.—Dr. Silvester, whose name is so well known as the promulgator of a method of resuscitating those apparently dead from drowning, etc., believes that he has discovered the true nature of the spleen, from an investigation of the lateral homologies of the liver, stomach, intestinal canal. His pamphlet is long and learned, and illustrated by a somewhat fanciful diagram representing the “missing links” in our interior. The conclusion he arrives at may be given in his own words: “The spleen is a sanguiferous gland, situated on the left side of the abdominal cavity. It is the left lateral homologue of a portion of the liver, the liver being a combination of a sanguiferous gland and a biliary apparatus.” The left biliary apparatus, the left end of the stomach, left pancreas and small intestines being all missing in our bodies as presently constituted, the only remains of the latter being the appendix vermiformis. The heroine of one of Disraeli’s novels is represented as expressing her application of prevalent theories of development by the exclamation, “Oh!