

Title                      Report upon vaccination in the districts of Rohilcund,  
                                 Kumaon and Gurhwal for 1863-64  
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Report upon Vaccination  
in the Districts of Rohil-  
cund, Kumaon, and Gurh-  
wal, for 1863-64.

## ART III.

REPORT UPON VACCINATION IN THE DISTRICTS OF ROHILCUND,  
KUMAON, AND GURHWAL, FOR 1863-64.

By DR. F. PEARSON,

*Superintendent of Vaccination.*

From Superintendent of Vaccination, Rohilcund, Kumaon, and Gurhwal, to Secre-  
tary to Government, North Western Provinces, (No. 2.)—Dated Almorah, the  
15th April, 1864.

SIR,—I have now the honor to submit, for the information of His Honor  
the Lieutenant Governor, North Western Provinces, my Report upon Vaccination  
for the season of 1863-64, and will commence by giving "Comparative Returns"  
of the operations for the three past seasons, which will show at a glance the  
amount of work accomplished and the progress that is being made. I will then  
add such observations and comments as may appear to be necessary to their  
elucidation.

## 2. Rohilcund Districts.

| Season.  | No. of Vaccinators. | Successful. | Unsuccessful. | Doubtful. | Unknown. | TOTAL. |
|----------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|----------|--------|
| 1861-62, | 34                  | 17,761      | 7,274         | 2,969     | 3,859    | 31,863 |
| 1862-63, | 34                  | 21,564      | 7,405         | 3,551     | 3,412    | 35,932 |
| 1863-64, | 34                  | 27,627      | 5,179         | 2,835     | 2,448    | 38,089 |

The above Returns I consider very satisfactory, inasmuch as not only  
do they exhibit an annual increase as regards numbers, showing that the people  
generally are more disposed to accept Vaccination, but they prove in a marked  
degree the greater care and skill of the Vaccinators by the annually increasing  
percentage of success. The great increase, however, both as regards numbers and  
percentage of success, that has occurred this year must be to a certain extent  
attributed to an unusually cool season, and also to the fact of the Vaccinators  
having striven their utmost, so as to attain the promotion promised to the most  
deserving under the new scheme of Vaccination about to be introduced in the  
North Western Provinces. Therefore, this season's operations must be regarded as  
perhaps exceptionally good, though of the fact of Vaccination being more sought  
after than in former years, I hold undeniable proofs, for it is now not uncom-  
mon for Native gentlemen to send for the Vaccinators to operate upon their  
children and to reward them for their services. One of the most gratifying  
instances was that of the Nawab Hidayut Ali (a relation of the Nawab of  
Rampore) sending in his child to Moradabad for Vaccination, and asking for the  
services of a Vaccinator to proceed to Rampore to operate upon the children  
of his friends and relatives. Cases of this kind will, I feel, become frequent as  
soon as the benefits of Vaccination become more widely known; but this can only  
happen by the Vaccinators acquiring a repute for skill, care, and success in their  
profession. I am happy to say that this year there has been a most evident improve-



ment in these respects, and it must be always our utmost aim to ensure these qualities if we are ever to attain to what must be our ultimate object, *viz.*, so to make the people believe in the efficacy of Vaccination as to desire it. That wish created, there would be no difficulty in meeting it by instructing their own Hukeems and Baidis in the art, and so placing Vaccination within the reach of every one, independently of the aid of Government.

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### 3. Kumaon and Gurhwal.

| Season.  | No. of Vaccinators. | Successful. | Unsuccessful. | Doubtful. | Unknown. | TOTAL. |
|----------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|----------|--------|
| 1861-62, | 10                  | 12,907      | 1,447         | 692       | 331      | 15,377 |
| 1862-63, | 10                  | 12,004      | 1,202         | 700       | 471      | 14,377 |
| 1863-64, | 10                  | 17,005      | 1,234         | 879       | 424      | 19,542 |

The observations made with reference to the Rohilkund Returns are similarly applicable to the above, and need not be repeated. I would merely remark that the great increase as regards numbers has occurred in Kumaon, where Vaccine operations have been but comparatively recently introduced. In Gurhwal but little change can be expected, inasmuch as that District is now almost completely protected, only the new births being obtainable as subjects.

### 4. Kumaon and Gurhwal Vaccine Dépôt.

| Season.  | Crusts. | Points. | Glasses. | Tubes. | TOTAL. |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|--------|--------|
| 1861-62, | 12,488  | 939     | 203      | 2      | 13,682 |
| 1862-63, | 13,523  | 1,907   | 179      | 1,180  | 16,789 |
| 1863-64, | 19,207  | 2,242   | 401      | 1,608  | 23,458 |

A large increase of *virus* upon former years: naturally accounted for by the greater numbers vaccinated. The above supplies were sent to all parts of India.

5. One of the chief obstacles to the extension of Vaccination was the dislike that parents had of allowing their children to be taken to the next village for the purpose of supplying lymph to others, and as a general rule it fell to the lot of the humble low caste to become the vehicles of transmission, thus entailing a new source of difficulty, *viz.*, the high caste objecting to allow their children to be vaccinated from the arm of an inferior. But by employing Vaccine points as the vehicles for lymph, and using them the same day that they are loaded, the necessity for taking children away from their homes is obviated, and the source of the *virus* is not brought into question. Under this plan, moreover, house to house visitation can be made instead of having to collect all the children together in one spot as heretofore, which entailed both time and trouble.

6. After an experience of some years, I have no hesitation in pronouncing the Vaccine-needle to be the best instrument for Vaccinating with in India. With it the operation is quickly and easily performed, and a large surface is exposed to the reception of the *virus*. Care, however, must be taken not to scratch too deeply: the cuticle should be abraded only to *slight redness*, and then the *virus* immediately rubbed in with the ivory end of the needle.



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If crusts are to be used let them be rubbed down into a fine powder in a pestle and mortar, and then intimately mixed with cold water to the consistence of rich milk: a few drops of the solution well, but gently, rubbed on to the surface of the scratch, will almost invariably ensure success if the crust is fresh.

In loading Vaccine-tubes care must be observed to take only the first few drops of lymph that exude on pricking the vesicle: what follows is merely serum, and therefore useless. Much of the disappointment experienced in using tubes, is owing to a non-observance of the above precaution. The Vaccine points that I employ are not of the pattern in general use, viz., sharp-pointed for the purpose of being inserted under the cuticle. Mine are rounded at the end, and having been well loaded with lymph on both sides, are used the same or next day by wiping off the lymph on to the scratch made by the needle, the lymph having been previously moistened by the breath or dipped momentarily into water. Used in this way I find points most effective.

Crusts will retain their goodness for three or four months.

Capillary tubes remain efficacious for years: but lymph on points retains its power for a few days only.

Lymph on glasses I find so untrustworthy that I purpose giving them up altogether.

The above observations on the different varieties of lymph and virus, and on the modes of Vaccinating, though not new to many, yet may be of service to some; and I feel convinced that, if attended to, much of the unsuccessful Vaccination that now occurs would be prevented. In the Hills I use the lancet chiefly for Vaccinating, its point somewhat rounded, as the crust resulting therefrom is better shaped (circular and small) than that produced by the needle, which is large and irregular. Moreover, when using the lancet, six insertions are made, whereas with the needle only two are necessary: hence with the lancet my supply of crust is larger, which is an object with the Depôt.

7. I distribute only that virus which has been produced in the Hills, it being more reliable than that of the hotter climate of the Plains. It will be observed from the Returns that in the Hills I receive on an average upwards of one crust for each successful recorded case. In the Plains, owing to the fact of the needle being used, and the children being frequently unclothed (therefore the crusts more liable to be lost) I receive scarcely one in three. Collecting crusts in the Plains entails a sad waste of time, for I do not need them for distribution; yet it is absolutely necessary to continue the system, as it is one of my chief checks against false returns, for it is only by good Vaccination that good crusts can be produced, and according to the numbers furnished do I judge of a Vaccinator's work. If I had not this check, it would be impossible for me to speak confidently, as I now can, as to the truth of the Returns submitted to Government.

I have, &c.,

F. PEARSON,  
Superintendent of Vaccination.

From Secretary to Government, North Western Provinces, to Superintendent of Vaccination, Rohileund, Kumaon, and Gurhwal, (No. 1231 A.)—Dated Nynce Tal, the 4th May, 1864.

SIR,—I have received and laid before the Hon'ble the Lieutenant Governor your Report on Vaccination for 1863-64, No. 2, dated the 15th instant.



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in the Districts of Rohil-  
cund, Kumaon, and Gurh-  
wal, for 1863-64.

2. The Returns for the Rohileund Districts are most satisfactory. It is observed that there were upwards of 3,000 more persons Vaccinated than in 1862-63, while the number of successful cases has increased by more than 6,000.

3. The larger proportion of successful cases in Rohileund is without doubt due, as remarked by you, to the unusually cool season, and to the emulation of the Vaccinators, who strove to earn the promotion promised to the most deserving under the new Vaccination scheme which has just been introduced into these Provinces.

4. The Returns from Kumaon and Gurhwal are equally satisfactory, the total number of cases being 19,500 against 14,300 during the previous year, and the successful cases amounting to 17,000 as compared with 12,000 in 1862-63.

5. The increase has occurred almost entirely in Kumaon, the District of Gurhwal, as stated by you, being now almost completely protected, and the only new cases obtainable there being those of infants.

6. The Lieutenant Governor is glad to learn that the difficulty which used to exist in consequence of the dislike of parents to allow their children to be taken to the next village in order to supply lymph to others, and the caste objections which consequently arose, have now been got rid of by the introduction of Vaccine-points.

7. In conclusion, I am to remark that your report is both interesting and satisfactory, the more so from the assurance given of the reliability of the results, which fully attest your zeal and skill in the fulfilment of your duties.

8. Your report will be published in a No. of the "Selections from the Records of this Government."

I have, &c.,

R. SIMSON,  
Secretary to Government, N. W. P.