

SMALLPOX MENACE.

Bradford faces a grim situation. The peril of smallpox lies over the city. No one can tell at this stage whether it will be checked. Of its 300,000 population, 8,000 are Pakistanis, and it was arrivals from that country over the Xmas period, who developed the dreaded disease. Throughout Britain, as we go to Press, smallpox has killed six people. Wisely, Bradford responded with vaccination. Already 100,000 in that city have been treated at emergency clinics. Vaccine for a further 100,000 has arrived. St. Luke's Hospital was isolated, for not even the smallest risk can be taken with this most contagious disease.

Bradford's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Douglas believes the epidemic has been arrested. And at the Townhall, the health department kept pace with the queues. Unfortunately since vaccination ceased to be compulsory 14 years ago the number untreated runs into millions. They are now vulnerable. Realising the position, thousands in other cities are following Bradford's example. To be vaccinated is the only protection.

Much of the old opposition to vaccination has gone. That is proved by the rush of people seeking to be immunised.

When the latest batch of 87 Pakistani immigrants arrived at London Airport, they were closely scrutinised. Five who had no vaccination certificates were immunised at once. Since November, 267 people have died of smallpox in Pakistan. Some M.P.s say that immigration from that country should be stopped till the epidemic there dies away. At St. Pancras Townhall it looked like Bradford all over again. Londoners came forward in big numbers.

Clearly, the peril is recognised by the majority of people. The spread of smallpox must be prevented.