

Book Review

Dissolving Illusions: Disease, Vaccines, and the Forgotten History, by Suzanne Humphries, M.D., and Roman Bystryanyk, softcover, 504 pp, \$21.60, ISBN 9781480216891, CreateSpace, 2013.

It has been very difficult to elucidate the truth when it comes to vaccines. Those who question them are immediately labeled “anti-vaxxers,” as if the truth is so obvious that no one should dig into statistics and facts. It has long been assumed that all the dreaded infectious diseases were conquered one by one as the vaccines were introduced. This book challenges those assumptions.

Dr. Humphries makes the case that the causes of infectious diseases are famine, poverty, and filth, which were ultimately alleviated by clean water, adequate housing, sanitary food preparation, sewage systems, and personal hygiene, and by eliminating deplorable work conditions and child labor. In this book, she delves into the history of vaccination, which dates to 1796, when Edward Jenner used cowpox to inoculate an 8-year-old boy. The boy did not contract smallpox when deliberately exposed to it, and the “science” of vaccination began.

But all was not well as mass vaccination was instituted. The preparations were not sanitary. In the mid-1800s, as people became reluctant to vaccinate, governments passed laws to force the issue. In England, every child was expected to be vaccinated by age 2. Many children died shortly after being inoculated, and parents revolted.

In 1884, a protest in Leicester, England, assembled more than 80,000 people. This historic rebellion successfully countered a prevailing medical belief and heavy-handed government rule. The leaders of Leicester got the message and implemented a successful plan of sanitation, hygiene, and isolation, allowing for freedom of choice and self-determination.

Deaths from vaccination were not reported, but by 1898, Dr. Alexander Wilder noted that during the 1871–1872 smallpox pandemic, the vaccinated contracted severe smallpox more rapidly than the unvaccinated.

In 1911, Dr. J.W. Hodge wrote:

What an act of insanity it would be to implant the infective products of undefined disease into the bodies of eight thousand healthy children in order to prevent the possible development of a very few mild cases of smallpox! Could absurdity go further than this?

Humphries and Bystryanyk go on to describe the initiation of more vaccines and are quick to point out that the diseases were declining before the vaccines were instituted. Immunization against pertussis, for example, began in 1957, but death from this disease had been falling steeply before that, leaving very little room for improvement. By the time the measles vaccine was introduced, death from this disease had already dropped precipitously, by more than 98%. Strong immune systems

and adequate nutrition appeared to be far more helpful than vaccination.

The authors present a comprehensive history of all the current vaccines and provide alternatives to vaccination, such as high-dose vitamin C, shown to be effective against measles, scarlet fever, polio, and pertussis. They lament the fact that the work of doctors who promote such remedies has been forgotten or actively denied.

As Daniel J. Boorstin (1914–2004) wrote: “The greatest obstacle to discovery is not ignorance—it is the illusion of knowledge.” This book is an excellent, comprehensive, detailed review of the largely unknown history of vaccination in Europe and the United States. It challenges the prevailing medical consensus that all vaccinations are useful and good for our children.

Discovering the truth about vaccination harms is very difficult. Even in 1938, Charles Cyril Okell wrote: “Those who have had to take detailed notice of the immunization accidents of the past few years know that to get the truth of what really went wrong generally calls for the resources of something like the Secret Service.”

This book is a must read for anyone who is willing to seek the truth and challenge the prevailing doctrine whereby every child in the United States is expected to receive 73 vaccine doses by the age of 7. Are we doing more harm than good?

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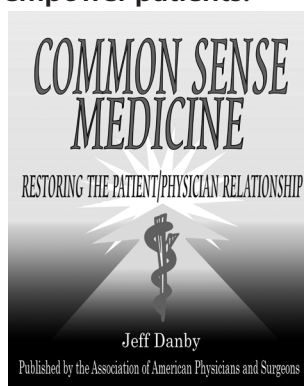
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