Vor v is properly a consonant, and as such is placed be­fore all the vowels; as in *vacant, venal, vibrate,* &c. Though the letters v and u always had two sounds, they had only the form v till the beginning of the fourth cen­tury, when the other form was introduced, the inconveni­ence of expressing two different sounds by the same letter having long before been observed. In numerals V stands for five ; and with a dash added at top, thus V, it signifies 5000.

In abbreviations, among the Romans, V. A. stood for *veterani assignatis* V. B. *viro* *bono;* V. B. A. *viri boni ar­bitratu;* V. B. F. *vir bonae fidei;* V. C. *vir consularis;* V*.* C. C. F. *vale, conjux charissime, feliciter;* V. D. D. *voto dedicatur;* V. *G. verbi gratia;* Vir*.* Ve. *virgo vestalis;* VL. *videlicet ;* V. N. *quinto nonarum.*

VACCINATION, (from *vacca,* a cow), is the artificial production of a disease, originally obtained from the cow, (cow-pox), by bringing the matter of that disease in con­tact with the living fibre.

To Dr. Edward Jenner we are indebted for the discovery of vaccination. His attention was first directed to the subject by the popular belief which existed in Gloucester­shire, where he resided, that those who were infected with matter from the sores on the udder of the cow, were ever after secured from the contagion of small-pox. It was not, however, till the 14th of May 1796, that he made it the subject of direct experiment, by taking matter from the sore on the hand of a dairymaid who had contracted cow­pox from the udders of her master's cows, and applying it, by means of two superficial incisions, to the arm of a boy. Pustules somewhat similar to those of small-pox, but darker in their hue, and filled with a limpid fluid, were produced, and became surrounded with an erysipelatous or red circle, but the whole died away, leaving on the inoculated part scabs and subsequent eschars, without producing any other in­convenience. On the seventh day after the operation, the boy complained of some uneasiness in the arm-pit ; on the ninth he became chilly, had headach, loss of appetite, and was otherwise indisposed, and passed a restless night, but was well by next day. As the object of the experiment was to ascertain whether the cow-pox gave immunity from the small-pox, he was on the 1st of July inoculated with small­pox matter, but no disease was produced ; and the same result was obtained when this was repeated some months afterwards. Numerous experiments of the same kind were afterwards made ; and they ended in establishing the fact that the matter of cow-pox protected the human body from being acted on by the infection of small-pox, while it was itself a mild and safe disease, exciting little more constitu­tional disturbance than what resulted from the local sore.

Dr. Jenner accounted for this singular fact, by asserting that cow-pox was nothing else than small-pox modified, or deprived of all its noxious qualities, by having passed through the system of the cow ; and that the disease in the heel of the horse, called grease, which he showed was capable of producing the vaccine vesicle in the cow, was also but a variety of the same disease. In fact, he at first regarded both small-pox and cow-pox as originally derived from the horse.

The publication of such an interesting fact did not fail to excite general attention ; and, accordingly, the very same year in which Dr. Jenner’s Inquiry made its appearance, Dr. Pearson published the results of his investigations, which tended to confirm the opinion advanced by Dr. Jenner as to the anti-variolous powers of the cow-pox. In two points alone did he dissent. He regarded cow-pox and small-pox as two very different diseases, and denied that the cow-pox could be produced by the matter of the diseased heel of the horse ; and he was supported in his opinion by the inquiries of Sir Isaac Pennington, the arguments of Dr. Parr, and the experiments of Dr. Woodville, and of Mr. Simmons.

Other experimentalists were, however, much more suc­cessful in confirming the opinion of Dr. Jenner as to the analogy or rather identity of the disease of the horse’s heel and the cow-pox. Mr. Tanner succeeded in communicating the cow-pox to the cow, by inserting on the udder some liquid matter taken from the diseased heel of the horse ; and the experiments of Mr. Lupton and Dr. John Loy corro­borated the same fact. Dr. Loy, indeed, found that even the equine matter produced in man as perfect vaccine vesicles, as that derived from the cow itself, and afforded equal protection from the infection of small-pox. These conclusions have been confirmed by subsequent experi­mentalists both in this country and on the continent, so that it is now to be regarded as an established fact, that grease and cow-pox are the same complaint, modified by the constitution of the animals in which they occur.

Dr. Woodville of the London Small-Pox Hospital lent his aid to ascertain, by direct experiment on a large scale, whether the introduction of the mild disease, cow-pox, was worthy of the encomiums bestowed upon it by Dr. Jenner and Dr. Pearson, and whether it really guarded the system from a subsequent attack of that loathsome and fatal disease, the small-pox. The results of these experi­ments were published in 1799, by which time he had vac­cinated six hundred individuals. In most of these cases, small-pox inoculation had been performed at a subsequent period, to test the efficacy of the protective power of the cow-pox, but not one of them took the small-pox. An anomalous occurrence, however, showed itself in nearly three-fifths of the patients vaccinated at the Small-Pox Hos­pital. Pustular eruptions, more or less numerous, resem­bling those of small-pox, appeared on various parts of the body, in some cases maturating much in the same way as the pustules do in that disease, in others fading away without proceeding to the formation of matter. Dr. Jenner, at the time when the circumstance occurred, endeavoured to explain it, by supposing that it was owing to some pecu­liarity in the air which these patients breathed, or to a contamination of the original cow-pox matter with small­pox. That it could not be owing to contamination with small-pox matter, Dr. Woodville showed from the fact, that the same matter, when employed for the vaccination of individuals out of the Small-Pox Hospital, did not pro­duce these same pustular eruptions; and some of the identical matter sent to the country, and used in vaccinating one thousand individuals, only produced pustular eruptions in two cases. Dr. Woodville, therefore, very justly drew the inference, that the cases vaccinated at the Small-Pox Hospital differed from those vaccinated elsewhere, in being placed in the centre of a variolated atmosphere, to the action of which the pustular eruption was to be ascribed; a state­ment which was in a manner proved at the time by the fact, that though at first nearly three-fifths of all the cases vacci­nated showed pustular eruptions, yet the eruptions afterwards diminished so much, that of the last hundred cases which be published in his first Reports, only seven were thus affected