

ANTI-VACCINATION LEAGUE.

Changed to Anti-Compulsory Vaccination—Effort to Repeal Laws.

The Connecticut Anti-Vaccination League, at a meeting held yesterday in the Hotel Hartford, decided to reorganize as the Connecticut Anti-Compulsory Vaccination League. The following declaration of principles was adopted:—

Believing that compulsory vaccination is contrary to the inherent and vested rights possessed by every human being, and that any law which conflicts with, or abrogates those rights, is subversive of the liberties of the people as guaranteed under the constitution of the United States:

Therefore, we, the undersigned, associate ourselves together for the purpose of opposing by every just and proper means, the enactment of any law or laws, requiring any person, of any age, to submit his or her person to the operation of vaccination or inoculation under any considerations or circumstances whatever, unless by their own free will or choice; hereby pledging ourselves to use every effort within our power to cause the repeal of any law or laws, now upon the statutes of Connecticut, which compels any person or persons to be vaccinated without the consent of himself or herself, or his or her parents, or legal guardian.

Those present included Dr. S. B. Munn of Waterbury, Dr. E. M. Ripley of Unionville, L. W. Andersen of Waterbury, F. K. Perry of Naugatuck, H. P. Richards of New Britain, Henry Blakell, Rev. A. J. Culver and Rev. C. S. Bullock of Stratford and E. P. Miller of this city.

The morning session was devoted to a general discussion on the aims, purposes and prospects of the league, in which Dr. Munn, L. W. Andersen, Rev. C. S. Bullock, H. P. Richards and others took part. Mr. Bullock said that there should be a determined attempt made to get the incoming General Assembly to repeal the compulsory vaccination law. He said that his town had taken action against compulsory vaccination of school children. Frank Blakeman, representative from Stratford, was elected on an anti-vaccination issue. Dr. Munn said that if the doctors could be inoculated with some microbes of good common sense, much good would result to the community therefrom. Dr. Munn cited many cases of disease which he said had been caused by vaccination with pure bovine virus.

After considerable discussion it was decided to change the name of the league to the Anti-Compulsory Vaccination League, it being the sense of the meeting that there were a great many people who were not opposed to vaccination but believed that a man should have the right to decide whether he or his children should be vaccinated. A temporary organization was formed with Dr. Munn as president and Mr. Anderson as secretary. Then a permanent organization was formed with the following officers:—

President—Dr. S. B. Munn, Waterbury.

Vice-President—Dr. E. M. Ripley, Unionville.

Secretary—Rev. C. S. Bullock, Stratford.

Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer—L. W. Andersen, Waterbury.

Executive Committee—The officers and one member from each local league in the state.

Dr. Munn agreed to hold the position of president until the league had become much larger and said that he was a fighter as well as a worker and proposed to continue fighting until vaccination ceased to become compulsory. "That is, if I live as long."

The executive committee was authorized to compile a constitution and by-laws for the league, and to expend money in making the members of the General Assembly acquainted with the purposes of the league through the medium of literature. The annual membership fee was fixed at 50 cents. The executive committee was also authorized to issue blank petitions for signature requesting the General Assembly to repeal all laws requiring compulsory vaccination. The executive committee will call a meeting of the league in this city during the session of the General Assembly, when the constitution and by-laws will be submitted for adoption.

Rev. C. Seymour Bullock, who succeeds Thomas Greenwood of Waterbury as secretary of the league, is pastor of the Neighborhood Church of Stratford. He pushed the subject of anti-vaccination in the town of Stratford so vigorously that in town meeting the voters decided to instruct the school committee, of which he is a member, that vaccination be not required as a condition of entrance in the public schools of the town. He said to "The Courant" reporter after the meeting that directors had no more right to demand vaccination than the preachers had to demand baptism. Of the two, the baptism would do the greater good, if augmented by soap. L. W. Andersen of Waterbury, the corresponding secretary and treasurer of the league, is president of the Waterbury Scientific Society.

Mr. Andersen reported that he had been in correspondence with state leagues in New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Indiana and with the British Anti-Vaccination League of London. The law of Great Britain has been modified so that if a man declares that he has conscientious objections to vaccination he is not compelled to be vaccinated.