

June 20, 1822

Compulsory vaccination

The year 2020, unfortunately, started very badly!

The coronavirus pandemic, which began in China and exported outside its borders, will unfortunately have very heavy repercussions both for the number of victims and for the economy.

Virologist Ilaria Capua has just informed us that it will take many months before the most effective vaccine to destroy this virus is developed.

Also in 1822 there was a similar situation, due to smallpox.

Consalvi by edict tried to force the population of the Papal State to get vaccinated.

Unfortunately ignorance did great damage.

In our recent case, however, we are all waiting for the vaccine.

This is a very positive aspect.

It means we trust science.

But let's go back to 1822.

" on June 20, 1822, the secretary of state card. Consalvi "issued a meticulous edict on vaccination against smallpox, prescribing the erection of provincial commissions, arranging for surgical surveillance, the competences of municipal doctors, 'instruction for those conducted"; providing, moreover, that "all the petitions that will be advanced to enjoy some trait of sovereign charity must be accompanied by a certificate, showing that the applicant, being the father of a family, has had the vaccination practiced " (La CIVILTÀ CATTOLICA, 1970, vol. 1 °, p.271)

.. In practice

, Consalvi ordered compulsory vaccination.

Unfortunately, with the death of Pius VII in 1823 and of Consalvi himself in 1824, compulsory vaccination was no longer practiced.

From Wikipedia:

Vaccination controversy.

Various texts attribute to Leo XII the prohibition of vaccination against smallpox. In particular, Benedetto Croce wrote that "the pope who similarly abolished codes and courts established by the French wanted to return to the orders of the old time, and locked up the Jews in ghettos anew and forced them to witness practices of a religion that was not theirs, and he even forbade the

grafting of smallpox which mixed the sap of beasts with those of men: vain efforts which then yielded from more to less to the needs of the times "

According to Donald J. Keefe, no official documents contain such claims. From texts of the time it appears that Pope Leo limited himself to removing the compulsory vaccination in 1824 (disliked by large sections of the population for its supposed dangerousness, although it had been made mandatory, two years after the outbreak of a smallpox epidemic , in the Papal State on 20 June 1822 first by Count Monaldo Leopardi, gonfalonier and father of Giacomo Leopardi, while maintaining its free character: "It remains the obligation of doctors and surgeons conducted to carry it out for free [the anti-smallpox vaccination, to those who wish to prevail, since this the treatment and condom of a disease which, like all the others, they are obliged to repair. "

(Leo XII, Legacy Circular 15 September 1824).

According to the doctor Giacomo Tommasini, this led the population, especially in the countryside, to neglect vaccination despite the fact that the Provincial Health Commission made the vaccine available to those who requested it and despite the commitment of the doctors themselves. Thus a subsequent epidemic, which occurred in 1828, in the city of Bologna alone, caused 553 deaths, and a third epidemic struck in 1835.

It is important to note that at the time the antivaiolosa was not mandatory in many European states, including the Kingdom of Sardinia (later Kingdom of Italy), where it became compulsory only in 1859. By way of comparison, England offered free vaccination in 1840 and made it compulsory in 1853.

It should be noted that Leo XII in 1824 awarded Luigi Sacco the equestrian order of the Golden Spur as thanks for sending 108 copies of his book on vaccination which were distributed in the health offices of the Papal State. This fact was discovered by AP Gaeta in an unpublished correspondence he found in the Vatican Secret Archives. Commenting on this discovery, Maria Luisa Righini Bonelli (1) notes that "what some wanted to affirm does not therefore seem reliable, namely that Leo XII would have shown himself contrary to what Pius VII had done **and especially Cardinal Consalvi** , promoter of the edict issued in 1822 in favor of vaccination "

The issue was definitively clarified by Bercé and Otteni who, with an extensive and documented discussion, demonstrated that it was not a question of a ban but of making vaccination optional, which had encountered strong opposition in the population. It is also attested with certainty the existence of rumors among contemporaries about this supposed, but false, obligation, reported by the same circular by Tommasini and by the poem by Belli Er linnesto.

(1) Maria Luisa Righini Bonelli (Pesaro, November 11, 1917 - Florence, December 18, 1981) was an Italian historian of science and museologist.

ORIGINAL TEXT OF THE EDICT ON COMPULSORY VACCINATION OF 20 JUNE 1822. (from: Ephemeris Letters of Rome, Volume VIII, 1822, pp 102-112)

Health Legislation - Vajuolo Vaccino.

After the useful foundations of the charity institutes, the Santità di NS has recently ordered the inoculation of the Vajuolo Vaccino in its states. Regarding, therefore, the Edict issued on his part by the Most Eminent Cardinal Secretary of State, the mature application of the natural sciences

to public health which is the first concern of the Principles; us and to show ourselves happy with this glorious triumph of good studies; and to contribute with our small means to the greater publication of such a paternal and salutary act, and to weave once for our good readers the participation of those wise laws that the Principality enacts in favor of our life, and of the Arts, and of the Sciences, because they form the real splendor of them that we cultivate, We will begin willingly and with the superior permission from repeating this entire Vaccination, knowing that every extrinsic praise would fail in comparison, and every extract would be lacking. Members of the Central Commission were created by His Holiness the Most Excellent Doctors of Medicine Monsignor Archiatro Tommaso Prelà, Giovanni Battista Bomba, and Domenico Morichini, all three of the Collegio de 'Medici of the Alma Città not least promoter of such a noble institution, and all three very well known for doctrine and for good reason. Doctor Orazio Maceroni was deigned to be able to serve on the Commission with the title of Secretary. Members of the Central Commission were created by His Holiness the Most Excellent Doctors of Medicine Monsignor Archiatro Tommaso Prelà, Giovanni Battista Bomba, and Domenico Morichini, all three of the Collegio de 'Medici of the Alma Città not least promoter of such a noble institution, and all three very well known for doctrine and for good reason. Doctor Orazio Maceroni was deigned to be able to serve on the Commission with the title of Secretary. Members of the Central Commission were created by His Holiness the Most Excellent Doctors of Medicine Monsignor Archiatro Tommaso Prelà, Giovanni Battista Bomba, and Domenico Morichini, all three of the Collegio de 'Medici of the Alma Città not least promoter of such a noble institution, and all three very well known for doctrine and for good reason. Doctor Orazio Maceroni was deigned to be able to serve on the Commission with the title of Secretary.

EDICT

HERCULES of the CARDINAL CONSALVI SRC, Deacon of S. Maria ad Martyres, of the Holiness of Our Lord Pius Pope VII. Secretary of State. F., the evils which have most afflicted mankind, and which have extinguished the greatest number of individuals, is certainly the Arabian Vajuolo. Anyone who calculated the amount above given even the least afflicting from the fatal epoch of the introduction of the disease to these times, and even only addressed it with the imagination, could certainly not be overwhelmed by a feeling of horror on the immensity of victims. for its contagious force miserably extinct.

The Arabian Vajuolo maliciously threatens man from limiting his life, or to lose him or to make him unhappy up from the cradle, and rages on the human species as if to destroy it in its birth. This very sad thinking each time enlivened and exacerbated by the repeated massacres of the disease should have persuaded every people to embrace with the most lively enthusiasm and to practice vaccine inoculation with equal gratitude, a method as simple as it is equally effective in mitigating the poisonous force of illness.

An energetic means put by divine Providence as at the disposal of Paternal Love to save the offspring in the dawn of life when it most forms the object of its affectionate care, and in assurance of the hopes of the family and of the country, was at the certainly to be expected that once the obstacles had been overcome it would have spread everywhere with the greatest speed.

But it was not like that. A deep-rooted prejudice was even stronger in some parents than the love of the offspring itself.

After twenty-five years from the beneficial discovery, and after that in this interval the brightest facts and the most prosperous successes have ensured to this practice a complete triumph over impotent criticism, and error, yet it has not even spread in the Papal States in the manner that is powerfully claimed by the public good.

Therefore, the Holiness of OUR LORD always inclined to welcome and favor every useful rediscovery, but in particular way those who are directed to eliminate the evils that threaten weak Humanity, in the very keen desire to see all its beloved Subjects benefit from a practical surrender. from the experience stronger than any censorship, and superior to any praise, and which by now the most remote peoples of the earth benefit, with the oracle of his voice he ordered us to prescribe the following:

1. A central Vaccination Commission will be established for the propagation of vaccine inoculation throughout the extension of the Papal States under the immediate dependence of the Holy Consult -
2. This Commission will be made up of three Medical Doctor Members and a Secretary. One of the Members in turn according to seniority will be the President each year.
3. There will be a Vaccination Council. Its members will be chosen from among the professors of the medical faculties of Rome and Bologna.
4. In each Legation and Delegation there will be a Provincial Vaccination Commission. This will consist of the most senior among the Members of the Government Congregations, the Gonfaloniere, and the Doctor and Surgeon conducted or the first of them where there are more. Since there are more Doctors and Surgeons in the Capital, those who are part of the Commission will not be in charge of vaccinating the Capital itself. The Doctor will then be the one who will have the proposition and who will be especially in charge of all the affairs concerning vaccination in the Province. The respective Eminent Legates and Monsignor Delegates will be Presidents of the Commissions in their Province.
5. The Gonfaloniere, the Doctor and the Surgeon of each Municipality will have to take the greatest care as their office so that the vaccine inoculation is spread as much as possible within the limits of their own Municipality, and of the places appodiated to it, and will faithfully carry out what is ordered to the same by the provincial commission.
6. The Central Commission will carefully ensure that all vaccinating Doctors and Surgeons comply with the greatest exactness to the instruction that is published at the same time by the Holy Council for the proper execution of vaccine injection: and that any other provision is faithfully observed that the same sacred forum, understood the opinion of the vaccination board, will consider it an expedient for the same object.
7. It is his duty to give clarifications to any Doctor and Surgeon who seeks them for the right intelligence and faith the practices of the Instruction that is published, and of the other provisions that are subsequently given by the S. Consulta.

8. It will be his main task to watch over the constant conservation of a deposit of the vaccine virus both in Rome and in all the provincial State Commissions.

9. So that the Central Commission is able to form and maintain the deposits indicated above, the directors of the orphanages and the houses of the exposed in Rome and the Comarca will make all the infants who will be received available to it. To this object the same Directors will give the note of the infants on a weekly basis every Sunday, who in the course of the week will have been admitted to the aforementioned Places and Houses.

10. It will be the office of the Vaccination Counselors to give those advice, which they believe to be the best for the most prosperous success of vaccine inoculation: in the event that the Central Commission encounters difficulties, it may refer them to the respective Counselor accompanied by reasoned observations.

11. The Provincial Commissions within the limits of the respective Legations and Delegations will have the same duties that have been prescribed in art. 6. for the Central Commission, however dependent on the latter Commission.

12. They will also ensure the preservation of the vaccine virus deposit, and that this is fresh as far as possible in order to make it free of charge to all those doctors and surgeons who need it - The obligation imposed by art. 9. to the Directors of the Orphanages, or of the Houses of the exposed in Rome and of the Comarca ° also enjoins all the Directors of similar Houses existing in the State with regard to their own Provincial Commissions.

13. The central and provincial Commissions will have to ensure that in each House of the exposed, the vaccination from arm to arm can be carried out perpetually in every arm in order to have the virus to be administered to the vaccinants at any time. These houses will therefore be considered as provincial vaccination institutes.

14. In addition to the infants belonging to the aforementioned pious establishments, all infants belonging to the municipality where these establishments are located will also be vaccinated. All children sent there from other municipalities will still be vaccinated for arm-to-arm vaccination in them. However, infants not belonging to the houses of the exposed will be vaccinated in a secluded place and with the necessary precautions in order to avoid any danger of infection for the children hospitalized in the same houses.

15. No child of the houses of the exposed can be delivered to the nurses and taken out of their hospice if they have not previously been vaccinated. Infants, therefore, who after the publication of this Edict will deliver themselves to nurses or to other persons who request them, must be provided with the vaccination certificate.

16. Vaccination in the homes of the exposed will be constantly carried out by the primary surgeons of these houses under the particular supervision of the Central Commission in Rome and in the Comarca, and of the Doctor Member of the Provincial Commission in the Provinces. The aforementioned primary surgeons will be guarantors of the regular execution of this operation, and if they refuse to perform it they will be discharged from their employment. However, they will be exempt from forming the lists of which we speak in art. 22. and from

taking to appropriate places to carry out the vaccination as in art. 24, of which the Doctors and Surgeons remain in charge of compliant conduct is prescribed in the articles themselves. They can also ask to be helped by the Doctor and Surgeon conducted in general vaccinations, especially for visits to be made in accordance with art. 24.

17. In every Municipality of the State where there is no home for the exposed, a room accessible to the whole population will be allocated, in which the Doctors and the Conduct Surgeons in turn once or twice a week, according to the Commissions, will perform arm-to-arm vaccine inoculation. The premises will be under the supervision of the Gonfalonieri.

18. Doctors and surgeons who do not want to undertake or neglect vaccination will be immediately discharged from the conduits. The same will have to faithfully carry out the instructions and orders that will be given to them by the Commissions by organ of the Doctor who is a member of the Commissions themselves, and those who contravene them will be reported by the Magistracies by office to the respective Legations and Delegations, or directly to the Central Commission, which they will proceed against them in accordance with the cases and circumstances.

19- Those Doctors and surgeons who did not show their aptitude to well know and distinguish the characters and symptoms of Vajuolo Vaccino, the way to graft it, and to collect and preserve the virus etc., are deprived of exercise of this branch of the art of health. The doctors and the neighboring surgeons chosen by the Commissions will take their place for a fee that will be calculated at the rate of twenty bajocchi for each mile of distance. If the Doctor or Surgeon takes the place of another Doctor or Surgeon forbidden from the exercise and having the conduct in the same Municipality, the compensation will be calculated in the same way as if he had been called to replace the Doctor or Surgeon of the nearest Municipality. L'disqualified will not be entitled to free exercise until he has confirmed to the respective commissions that he has acquired the aptitude and knowledge indicated above.

20. Six months after the publication of this Edict, among the necessary requisites to be presented by the Doctors and Surgeons, when they aspire to some conduct, there must be a certificate of knowing well knowing and carrying out everything that belongs to the graft of the Vajuolo Vaccino. For Doctors and Surgeons who for the first time undertake the exercise of their respective Faculties, the certificate now prescribed will be issued by the Primary Doctors of the Hospital where they will have done the practice. For those Doctors and Surgeons who are currently in conduct, and who aspire to obtain another one, the certificate will be issued by the Central Commission in the Comarca, and by the provincials in the Provinces. Without such a certificate it will not be possible to achieve a medical or surgical conduct. Who besides this certificate produces the other to have procured with particular zeal the propagation of the vaccine graft, issued by the Gonfaloniere of the Municipality that he will abandon, and confirmed by the aforementioned Commissions, in the same other requisites will have the preference in comparison with those who do not produced similar certificates in their own favor.

21. Twice a year in spring and autumn in each municipality the doctor and the surgeon will lend themselves to the general vaccination at the convenience of all the individuals who want to be vaccinated.

22. However, before proceeding with this operation, the Doctors in the main Municipalities accompanied by some of the members of the Judiciary, and the Surgeons in the appropriate places accompanied by the Mayor will go from family to family to form the list of all the individuals to be get vaccinated in accordance with the model attached to the instruction. If parents or guardians declare that they do not want their children or pupils recognized as vaccinated to be vaccinated, a report will be made; it will indicate the name, surname and condition of these parents and guardians, and the reasons that were adduced for their refusal to this healthy operation. These minutes will be signed by the Doctor or Surgeon, and by the member of the Judiciary or by the Mayor who will have accompanied them, and will be sent to the respective Commissions, which will send them to the Central Commission with their observations.

23. So that the compilation of the list of individuals to be vaccinated remains easy, and why the vaccination does not have to be interrupted during the year, in accordance with art. 17. in each quarter the nominal note of infants born in the previous quarter will be delivered to the conduct doctor.

24 Once the aforementioned list has been formed, we will proceed with the grafting operation, which must be completed in the space of one month. In the first nine days after the graft, each vaccinator will have to visit at least twice all the individuals vaccinated by him to ensure the success of the operation, and will have to perform it again for those in whom the graft had not had effect, or had appeared the spurious vaccine vajuolo.

25. The Doctors or Surgeons whose conduct extends to several Municipalities and appropriate places, must indicate in writing to the respective Gonfalonieri and Mayors the days in which they will go to each Municipality and appropriate place for the compilation of the aforementioned list and for the graft operation.

26. Arm-to-arm vaccine inoculation, being always to be preferred, and always having to procure whenever possible, the Magistrates of the main Municipalities will give the appropriate provisions to transfer a vaccine to the appropriate places in the appropriate time when it is necessary to begin the general vaccination.

27. In the room where the vaccine inoculation is performed, a book will be kept in which the vaccinators will progressively record the name and surname of the individuals who will have undergone the graft, on the day the operation was performed, and all those other particularities that are indicated in the model annexed to the Instruction. In the book just mentioned, the vaccinations that were made by the doctors and surgeons not conducted in the place where the vaccination was practiced will also be recorded. However, since only the primary surgeons of the houses of the exposed, and the doctors and surgeons conducted are responsible to the government for the outcome of the vaccination performed on the existing inhabitants within the limits of the respective municipalities, thus children who have been vaccinated by other doctors and surgeons must be distinguished by marking their names with asterisks or letters, and at the end of the page the names of the vaccinators will be indicated.

28. The certificates of follow-up vaccination will be issued only by the primary surgeons of the houses of the exposed, and by the doctors of conduct. In these certificates it will be necessary to

quote the page of the book in which the name of the person whose certificate is sought will be recorded.

29. At the beginning of each semester after the general vaccination, and no later than the 15th of July, and the 15th of January, a note similar to the model of the book will be made by the primary surgeons of the houses of the exposed and by the Conducted Doctors. individuals who have been vaccinated in the course of the preceding semester: they will send them to their own Commission accompanied by a report, in which they will have to expose the most interesting phenomena and events referable to vaccinated that could not be described in the note itself, as well as causes that hindered the prosperous success of vaccination. They will add the list of unvaccinated individuals similarly to the model attached to education. The provincial commission will add the note of the provincial capital and send them all to the central commission, adding a general report on the progress of vaccination in their province, and showing the people who had particularly distinguished themselves with their zeal to contribute to the success of the vaccine graft. Those of the Comarca will go directly to the latter Commission.

30. The Central Commission will also make a report twice a year in the months of August and February to be presented in double copy to the Secretariat of State and to the S. Consulta, in which it will indicate the number of individuals vaccinated throughout the State by period of the next six months, only an exposition of the causes that favor or delay this healthy practice, showing to the Government the names of those who are most distinguished by their commitment in order to promote and propagate it.

31. Sixty silver and five gold medals will be distributed annually to those Doctors, Surgeons, and Gonfalonieri, who will be most distinguished for their zeal in promoting vaccination, and for the greatest number of vaccinations they will have performed. Furthermore, in the appointments to jobs in the Healthcare branch, the Government will take particular account of the merits that Doctors and Surgeons will have acquired in fulfilling their duties concerning the very important object of vaccination.

32. All those who have held the reprehensible conduct of neglecting vaccination in order to preserve their offspring, and the individuals of the family they govern, in equal merit will be postponed to those who have practiced it with care, in objects dependent on Sovereign charity. Therefore, six months after the publication of this Edict all the petitions that will be advanced to enjoy some trait of Sovereign charity must be accompanied by a certificate showing that the applicant, being the father of a family, has had the vaccination practiced, or that the children have already had the human vajuolo.

33. The inoculation of human vajuolo in the interior of each municipality is prohibited. Parents who would prefer this graft to vaccine smallpox graft for their children will have to ask for the license from their Commission, which will not give it unless the inoculation takes place in a completely isolated house in the countryside and with all the precautions that may be needed to prevent the spread of the Vajuoloso infection. Violators of this provision will be punished with a fine of twenty shields to be paid in favor of the doctor or surgeon from whom the vaccine graft should have been performed.

34. As the human Vajuolo manifests itself in some individual, it will be the duty of the head of the family to which it belongs, and of the Doctor or Surgeon who has visited him to immediately report it to the municipal magistracy, which will immediately report it to the Commission.

35. The house in which the human Vajuolo has manifested itself as being attacked by contagion must immediately submit to a rigorous absentia. The whole family and all those who have had communication with the smallpox will be placed under strict sequestration in his own house, from which they will not be able to leave until after the healing or death of the infected person, and after the purges have been carried out on the people. and contaminated effects and household goods. The costs of the seizure and purges, after three months from the publication of this Edict, will be borne by the family of the vajuoloso: in the event that it is not in a position to sustain them, which must be proven in the legal forms, they will be paid by the Municipality.

36. When it is known that the human Vajuolo has manifested itself in some Municipality, the local Authorities, the Doctor and the Surgeon will use all their zeal, so that the individuals who have not had the Vajuolo want to benefit from the vaccination: this affection will be carried out in the Common itself the general vaccination with forms it is prescribed in art. 2 1.

37 In each year, within the month of February, on a day to be designated by the Most Eminent Prefect of the Sacred Consultation, there will be a solemn Vaccination meeting. It will be attended by all the members of the Vaccination Council who will be in Rome, and the doctors and surgeons in charge of public health. In this meeting the President will recite a speech on the causes that have favored or opposed this healthy practice; it will report on the opinions given to the Vaccination Council, and will indicate the number of individuals vaccinated throughout the state during the coming year. It will publish the names of those Doctors, Surgeons, and Gonfalonieri who have been decorated with medals, and honorable mention will be made of all those who have contributed to the propagation of vaccine inoculation. Everything will then be inserted in the public sheets.

From the Secretariat of State on June 20, 1822.