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EDITORIAL

## HIDING THEIR OWN CRIMES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE New York *Times* yesterday published a long communication signed W.R. Inge Dalton, M.D., and referring to the widespread devastation caused by alleged impure vaccine virus.

Dr. Dalton is an advocate of vaccination, and believes himself called upon to account for the twenty-two deaths in St. Louis, and similar deaths in other places, which have occurred within a remarkably short period of time. He does not follow the beaten track and ascribe this slaughter alone to impure vaccine, to the incompetency of the attending physician or to neglect following the operation, but the whole brunt and burden are laid at the door of "municipal socialism," and at "socialism" he discharges a few professional and oratorical guns.

The connection between socialism and impure virus is not apparent, nor was it mentioned until some reason had to be assigned for the conditions existing in the medical world. Then it was discovered that the city had supervision over the production of the virus, and that it was retailed by the city to the physicians. This is the "socialism" of the whole affair.

It is not within the sphere of the work done by the Socialist Labor Party to enter into the controversy between the vaccinationists and the anti-vaccinationists. Both sides seem to have breath enough to fight the matter out themselves. But the foolish and vicious assertions of W.R. Inge Dalton, M.D., cannot go without a word to show the quickness with which capitalism tries to throw the odium of its own crimes on its only opponent, true Socialism.

The vaccination laws are capitalist laws: they were framed by capitalist legislatures: they have been passed upon by capitalist courts: they are enforced by capitalist officials. From first to last the spirit of capitalism has dominated the whole procedure. Yet when an untoward event happens men of the stamp of W.R. Inge Dalton, M.D., rush forward with excuses, and the excuses are followed up by charges and insinuations.

It would be just as reasonable were the Socialist Labor Party to accuse the medical profession of murders and butcheries as it is for this member of the medical profession to assert that deaths from vaccination were caused by "Socialism." Had there been a cry raised when Jack-the-Ripper was at work—"See, death results from surgery; it must be stamped out," the world would have recognized at once the foolishness of the assertion. Yet there is as much connection between Jack-the-Ripper and surgery as there is between the city of St. Louis making vaccine for its doctors, and socialism.

Yet this attempt to join the incompetency, either of the city government or the medical profession, and Socialism is typical of the capitalist apologist. He must not only defend, but he must attack. Animated by a hatred of Socialism, he seeks to direct towards it the trouble that the shortcomings and crimes of his own masters have caused. He may be ignorant of what Socialism means, but that makes him all the more certain to be violent. W.R. Inge Dalton, M.D., has a great deal to learn concerning common honesty, and he has just as much to learn concerning the meaning of Socialism.

**Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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