

usual bag of pseudoscientific tricks. The facts are selective and the cited sources are themselves not representative of the most rigorously critiqued sources of scientific argument. When I want to know what percentage of people bitten by a rabid animal contract the disease, I do not turn to Der Spiegel for my information, but to carefully performed epidemiological studies. Also, when citing diabetes mortality statistics, I would like to see citations from national disease incidence statistics, not from Slaughter of the Innocents by Hans Reusch (Reusch gives no source for the diabetes statistics he cites in the book).

To take one of the examples cited by Catalano -- namely, the polio vaccine statistics. The data cited apparently come from a 1977 article in The A-V Magazine authored by Owen Hunt (at least Catalano's argument is remarkably similar to that presented by Hunt). It is not clear why Hunt only used the statistics from New York from 1922 to 1962 when his article was published in 1977. Perhaps it was because the later statistics undermined his claims about the uselessness of the polio vaccine. For example, U.S. national statistics for poliomyelitis cases from 1951 to 1980 (for five year periods) are set out below (Mortality & Morbidity Weekly Report, 1982, 30(54), 12-17).

1951-55	258,000
1956-60	61,000
1961-65	5,200
1966-70	508
1971-75	143
1976-80	162

If Hunt (or Catalano) had followed through on their research, perhaps they would have been more enthusiastic about the usefulness of the vaccine for poliomyelitis. Finally, one of the main reasons why the Sabin vaccine became the vaccine of choice in this country (there are some countries where the Salk vaccine has always been favored), was because it was a live virus vaccine and therefore children who had not been immunized would be infected by those who had. Therefore, in theory, one did not have to vaccinate everybody in order to immunize

nearly all the children.

There are numerous other holes and suspected weak spots in the article and the argument is so full of logical non sequiturs and flaws that I am surprised that BTS would publish it. If someone wishes to make the argument that animal research is scientifically invalid, I would hope that we could expect a more scholarly piece of work than Catalano's attempt, especially in the pages of BTS.

Sincerely,

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BUFFALO

THE THUNDER IS GONE FROM THE PLAINS
THE PRAIRIE HAS LOST HER RUMBLINGS
THE ROBE THAT STRETCHED FROM THE MIGHTY
MISSISSIPPI TO THE ROCKIES ITS FRINGES
REACHING THE WESTERN SHORE
WAS RENT DESTROYED AND WASTED
ALL THAT REMAINS IS A REMNANT
OF THE GARMENT THAT CLOTHED THE NEW WORLD

*buffalo spirit awakens
the bulls are in rut
the cows bellow for children
we deny them at our peril*

-- Paulette Callen

Information needed for research on the literature of philosophic vegetarianism in 19th-century England. Contact Karen Davis, Dept. of English, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742.