

Abstract of the Report on vivisection / adopted by the American Humane Association, September 26, 1895.

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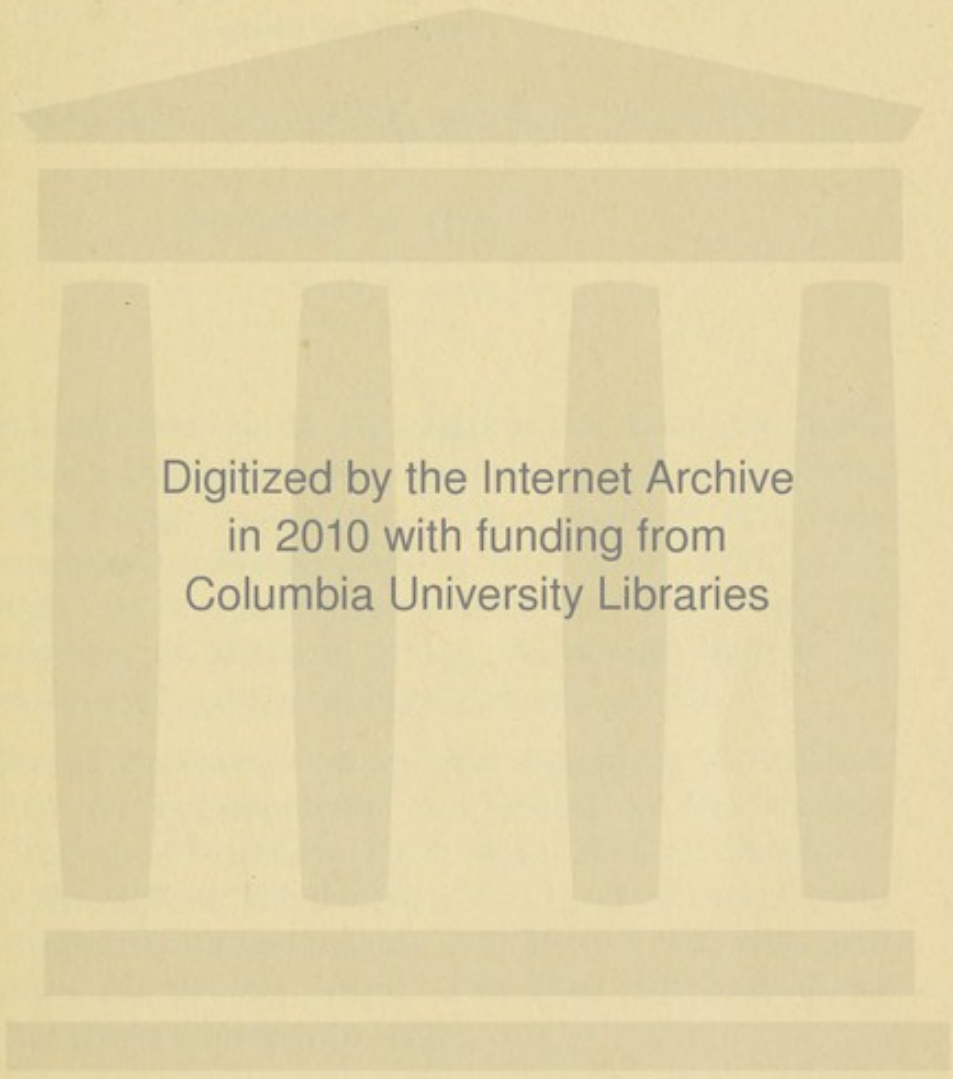
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ABSTRACT
OF
The Report on Vivisection

ADOPTED BY THE
AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION

September 26, 1895.

At the annual meeting of THE AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION in 1894, a committee was appointed to obtain a census of opinions regarding Vivisection. The report of this committee was rendered at Minneapolis in September, 1895, and is now published. As it constitutes a document too large for general circulation, an abstract, giving the results and a few of the expressions of opinion is herewith presented.

Four different statements of opinion regarding Vivisection were sent out for consideration and choice to the leading Clergymen, College Presidents, Professors, Medical Teachers, Editors, etc., throughout the United States; and to each Physician in the States of Massachusetts and New York, who had been in practice for fifteen years. The four different views represented by these statements were:

- I. Against all Vivisection whatever.
- II. Favorable to Vivisection, restricted, and supervised by law, if it be without Pain.
- III. Favorable to Vivisection when restricted to useful ends and under careful supervision.
- IV. For Vivisection without any limitations or restrictions of any kind, except the will of the experimenter.

Over two thousand expressions of varying views were sent to the committee. Of these, the American opinions may be thus tabulated :

	Total No.	Per Cent.
In favor of unlimited and unrestricted vivisection . .	281	13.4
Against unrestricted vivisection	1,753	84.1
Evasive or obscure	52	2.5
Total	2,086	100.0

A considerable number of those who recorded themselves as in favor of unrestricted Vivisection were professionally connected with the practice, or with institutions where it is a method of study. About one-fourth of all the expressions of opinion were against Vivisection under any circumstances.

But Vivisection is a practice with which Physicians are principally concerned. How do they stand? What is the judgment of Medical men after years of practical experience with the problems of pain and disease? Let us analyze the medical opinions received from Massachusetts and New York. The replies received from physicians in these States may be tabulated as follows :—

	Total No.	Per Cent.
For vivisection without restriction	220	19.1
For vivisection when restricted by utility	513	44.6
For vivisection when without pain	186	16.2
For the total prohibition of vivisection	207	18.
Obscure or evasive	24	2.1
Total	1,150	100.0

We see no reason to doubt that, with slight variations only, these proportions represent the sentiments prevailing in the medical profession throughout the country. If we ask the judgment of other influential classes in the community, we find the same tendency, even more pronounced. In the fol-

lowing tables we have indicated a number of opinions from clergymen, educators, presidents of universities and colleges, and those engaged in college work, etc:—

	Clergy- men.	Educa- tors.	Authors, Editors, etc.	Per Cent.
For vivisection without restriction . . .	0	34	4	4.7
For vivisection when restricted by utility	189	84	63	41.2
For vivisection when without pain . . .	116	49	26	23.5
For the total prohibition of vivisection .	144	52	30	27.7
Obscure or evasive	6	16	2	2.9
Total	455	235	125	100.0

It seems certain that the majority of those who represent enlightened public opinion in this country are not favorable to Vivisection unlimited and unrestrained. * * * One fact stands clearly out, that a majority of the class to whom we have appealed agree that *wherever Vivisection approaches cruelty and uselessness, it should be prohibited and condemned by law.*

We cannot refrain from quoting here the opinion of one of the most distinguished physicians in this country,—Dr. Theophilus Parvin, LL. D., late president of the American Academy of Medicine, and professor in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, as an illustration of what we believe to be the position of the majority of the medical profession in this country who have reached middle age:—

“It is wise for physicians interested in Vivisection to recognize that there is on the part of prominent women and men in the laity a strong sentiment of antagonism to experiment on animals; and therefore they should avoid all such work not promising certain benefit to man, and anæsthetics ought always to be employed. I sometimes fear that the anæsthesia is frequently nominal rather than real, else why so many and ingenious contrivances for confining the animal during operations,—contrivances that are not made use of in surgical operations upon human beings, their immobility being secured by profound anæsthesia.

“Should the law restrict the performance of Vivisection? I think it ought, chiefly as an expression of public sentiment, and for moral effect. . . . I cannot think that Vivisections done for teaching purposes, simply showing what has been proven time and again upon hundreds and thousands of victims, are justifiable unless anæsthesia is employed, *to not merely mitigate, but to completely abolish suffering of the animals. Otherwise the influence of such experiments is injurious both to the operator and to the witnesses of the operation.*” [Italics are ours.]

The conclusions adopted by the committee were as follows :

“I. Vivisection is not merely a method of scientific teaching or investigation, but a practice which is justly subject to ethical restraints.

“II. We believe this practice has been abused. We are compelled to admit that President Parvin was right in declaring before the American Academy of Medicine that there are some American Vivisectors ‘who seem, seeking useless knowledge, to be blind to writhing agony and deaf to the cry of pain, and to have been guilty of the most damnable cruelties.’

“III. We believe in the potency of legislation to lessen these abuses. Again we agree with President Parvin that ‘law should restrict the performance of Vivisection;’ that ‘Vivisections done for teaching purposes, simply showing what has been proved time and again upon hundreds and thousands of victims, are not justifiable unless anæsthesia is employed, to not merely mitigate, but to completely abolish the suffering of the animals.’ We are glad to find ourselves in perfect accord with a scientific authority who declares that ‘the influence of such experiments without anæsthesia *is injurious both to the operator and to the witnesses of the operation.*’

“IV. But far transcending in importance the enactment of any restrictive legislation is the wide dissemination of absolute, accurate knowledge of Vivisection as it is to-day carried on in the seclusion of American laboratories. . . . We recommend that the American Humane Association during the coming year ask of each physiological laboratory in this country, whether it will accord permission to the President of the local Humane Society or to his authorized representative to be present during any experiments upon animals that may take place, simply as a silent observer, and *entirely without privilege of suggestion, criticism, or unsolicited remark.*”

Only a few sentences can be here quoted from each of the statements of opinion to which the following names were appended ; and these must not be taken as indicating more than the general trend of the sentiments expressed.

I. FOR TOTAL PROHIBITION OF VIVISECTION.

“Whether any useful knowledge can thus be acquired or not is beside the question. Even if utility could be proved, man has no moral right to attempt to benefit himself at the cost of injury, pain or disease to the lower animals. *The injury which the practice of Vivisection causes to the moral sense of the individual and to humanity far outweighs any possible benefit that could be derived from it.* Dr. Henry J. Bigelow, Professor in the Medical School of Harvard University, declared that “*Vivisection deadens the humanity of the students.*” Nothing which thus lowers morality can be a necessity to progress. * * * Painless or painful, useless or useful, however severe or however slight, Vivisection is therefore a practice so linked with cruelty, and so pernicious in tendency, that any reform is impossible, and it should be absolutely prohibited by law for any purpose.”

To this statement 464 signatures were sent, of which 216 were from members of the medical profession. One member of the Committee, Matthew Woods, M. D., adopts this view. Some of the supporters of this position are as follows:—

Prof. JAMES E. GARRETSON, M. D., Senior Professor of Surgery, Medico-Chirurgical College, Philadelphia:—

“I am without words to express my horror of Vivisection, though I have been a teacher of anatomy and surgery for thirty years. It serves no purpose that is not better served after other manners.”

FORBES WINSLOW, D. C. L. Oxon., M. R. C. P., London, Physician to the British Hospital for Mental Diseases, Physician to North London Hospital for Consumption, etc.:—

“In my opinion, Vivisection has opened up no new views, for the treatment and cure of diseases. It is most unjustifiable and cruel, and in no way advances medical science. I do not believe in many of the so-called experiments made by these ‘faddists,’ especially those relating to brain operations on monkeys and the consequent theory of cerebral localization. I have probably more experience than many of these experimenters who have given their opinions to the world as based on what they have done; and I beg leave to express my utter disbelief in the usefulness of such experiments and to discredit their being followed by any good results to mankind or to science in general.”

Prof. WILLIAM J. MORTON, M. D., Professor of Nervous and Mental Diseases at the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital, New York City:—

“I only wish I could state the above sentiments stronger. If mankind suffers from disease it is its own fault, to be cured by rectification of the causes which lead to it; and it is subversive of the high and moral order of the progress of humanity to inflict pain or death upon other living animals to abolish or minimize disease or suffering due to mankind’s own fault.”

(To Dr. Morton's father, Dr. W. T. G. Morton, the world owes one of the greatest blessings of this or any other age,—the comparative conquest of pain by the inhalation of ether.)

B. F. SHERMAN, M. D., Ex-president of the New York State Medical Society, Ogdensburg, N. Y. :—

“If it could be restricted to utility and without pain, it would be all right; but if permitted at all, it will be abused.”

EDWIN A. W. HARLOW, A. M., M. D. (Harvard), Wollaston, Mass. :—

“The late Dr. Henry J. Bigelow, in a lecture, which I heard, before the Harvard College Medical School, condemned the practice of some of the students in Paris in their Vivisections on horses, without anæsthetics, as ‘*infernal inhumanity.*’ Vivisections in all Medical Schools should be abolished.”

E. H. HAWKS, M. D., Lynn, Mass. :—

“I believe that Vivisection blunts the moral sense to such a degree as to become a strong force in the production of criminals.”

J. D. BUCK, M. D., Professor of Nervous Diseases and the Principles of Therapeutics, and Dean of Pulte Medical College, Cincinnati, Ohio.

ELMORE PALMER, M. D., President (1890) of the Western New York Medical Society, Buffalo, N. Y.

WILLIAM INGALLS, M. D., Boston, Mass. :—

“*Absolute prohibition*; for unless a law can be made which no one can get away from, Vivisection will obtain just as it does now.”

ALLAN MOTT-RING, M. D., Arlington Heights, Mass. :—

“Vivisection is an unmanly crime.”

IRA CLARK GUPTILL, M. D., M. S., Northborough, Mass. :—

“No legal restrictions would be conscientiously observed, and therefore I strike for absolute prohibition by law.”

ALEX. S. MCLEAN, M. D., Springfield, Mass. :—

“Have been in practice forty-eight years, and have never been influenced or governed by anything I have seen or read in the line of Vivisection.”

LORENZO W. COLE, M. D., Springfield, Mass. :—

“I consider it barbarous to torture anything capable of feeling pain, to demonstrate facts which have been proven thousands of times.”

IRA D. BROWN, M. D., Weedsport, N. Y. :—

“Every word in the above statement I know to be true. The practice of Vivisection is inhuman, cruel, and brutalizing in its effects upon those who witness it, while no information useful to the human family is gained

from it. In our medical colleges it is indulged in as a sport, a pastime, to the moral degradation of the students, making them unfit for the practice of the healing art."

Rt. Rev. JOHN SCARBOROUGH, D.D., Bishop of New Jersey.

Rt. Rev. JOHN WILLIAMS, D. D., LL. D., Bishop of Connecticut.

Rt. Rev. HUGH MILLER THOMPSON, D. D., Bishop of Mississippi.

Rt. Rev. J. H. D. WINGFIELD, D.D., Bishop of N. California.

The Very Rev. E. A. HOFFMAN, D. D., D. C. L., Dean of the General Theological Seminary, New York.

II. VIVISECTION ALLOWABLE IF WITHOUT PAIN.

"Whether that experimentation upon living animals known as Vivisection is justifiable or not, depends, in our judgment, *exclusively on the question of pain.* * * The use of chloroform and ether have made it possible to perform certain experiments and demonstrations upon living animals without the slightest pain, and these only we regard as justifiable for demonstration or research.

"The dangers of this practice, however, are so many, the temptations to excess are so strong, the abuses to which it has led are so notorious and deplorable, that the decision of this question of pain should not be left to the judgment of each experimenter; but the whole practice, like the study of human anatomy with dissection, should be regulated by definite laws, confined to certain objects, permitted only to competent and trustworthy persons, and restricted to licensed places which shall be open at all times to inspection by the Presidents of Humane Societies for Protection of Animals, or their authorized representatives."

To this statement of opinion, 398 signatures were affixed, of which 197 were those of physicians.

Among these were:—

ALBERT L. GIHON, A. M., M. D., Medical Director, U. S. Navy, in charge of the U. S. Naval Hospital, Washington, D. C.

Prof. HENRY M. FIELD, M. D., Emeritus Professor of Therapeutics, Dartmouth Medical College:—

"I give the above my emphatic approval. But if Vivisection thus restricted and guarded is not attainable, I should affix my signature to No. I."

CLINTON WAGNER, M. D., Senior Surgeon of the Metropolitan Throat Hospital, New York City : —

“Vivisection may be allowable if without pain and performed by the Professor or his licensed assistants, and only in the laboratories of incorporated *medical schools*.”

Prof. H. D. CHAMPLIN, M. D., Professor of Nervous Diseases, Cleveland University of Medicine and Surgery, Cleveland, Ohio : —

“I do not believe in these cases any tyro should be allowed to Vivisection; nor do I believe in Vivisection just to verify old experiments. Unless something of great value is to be gained in a scientific way, it should be forbidden even under the influence of an anæsthetic.”

Rev. FREDERIC R. MARVIN, M. D. Troy, N. Y. : —

“I believe Vivisection should be allowable in cases where pain may be avoided, and then only as conducted by experts for some definite end of sufficient consequence. It should never be allowed for mere purposes of demonstration, or as a method of instruction in the class-room or in the medical college.”

(In another letter to the Association, Dr. Marvin says: “Though now a minister of the Gospel, I was educated to the profession of medicine and was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, ‘Medical Department of Columbia College, N. Y.’ in 1870. In the class-room I saw Vivisections so unqualifiedly cruel that even now they remain in my memory as a nightmare. I am persuaded that none of the so-called experiments upon living animals that I witnessed were of any real value to me or to my fellow-students.”)

A. N. BROCKWAY, A. M., M. D., New York City : —

“My opinion is that no experimenter should inflict pain on any animal which he would not himself be willing to suffer in the same cause.”

WILLIAM WALLACE GARDNER, M. D., Springfield, Mass. : —

“I believe it useful under proper restrictions to save human suffering. *What I should be willing to suffer voluntarily, the lower order of animals should be obliged to suffer for humanity’s sake.*”

FRANK W. RING, M. D., A. M., Surgeon to Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital, New York City.

N. A. MOSSMAN, M. D., New York City : —

“Without supervision, indifferent experimenters might say that they had complied with all the requirements if they gave a few inhalations of chloroform, then experimented any length of time without continuing its use.”

EDWARD W. AVERY, M. D., Brooklyn, N. Y. : —

“Even though anæsthetics are used, I do not consider Vivisection justifiable to demonstrate well-known facts or to gratify curiosity.”

EDGAR S. DODGE, M. D., Natick, Mass. :—

“Vivisection should be under the limitation and control of United States law, and severe penalties should be applied to all violations.”

CLARKSON C. SCHUYLER M. D., Plattsburg, N. Y. :—

“If a law allowing Vivisection and without pain cannot be enforced, then I am for the absolute prohibition of Vivisection.”

President E. BENJAMIN ANDREWS, D. D., LL.D., Brown University, Providence, R. I. :—

“ I would add that, if there are results of very great importance obtainable by Vivisection without anæsthesia or with limited anæsthesia, I would permit Vivisection without or with limited anæsthesia subject to the conditions recited above in the last paragraph of printed matter.”

President ANDREW V. RAYMOND, LL.D., Union College, Schenectady, N. Y.

President JAMES R. DAY, D. D., S. T. D., Chancellor of the Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y.

Rt. Rev. THOMAS A. JAGGER, Bishop of Southern Ohio.

Rt. Rev. GEORGE F. SEYMOUR, Bishop of Springfield, Ill.

Rt. Rev. DANIEL S. TUTTLE, Bishop of Missouri, St. Louis, Mo.

Rt. Rev. C. K. NELSON, Bishop of Georgia, Atlanta, Ga.

Rt. Rev. O. W. WHITAKER, Bishop of Pennsylvania.

Rt. Rev. FRANCIS K. BROOKS, Bishop of Oklahoma and Indian Territories, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Mr. WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS, Author, New York City.

Mr. EDWARD BELLAMY, Author, Chicopee Falls, Mass.

Mr. BRANDER MATTHEWS, Author, New York City.

Prof. ALBERT BUSHNELL HART, Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass.

Prof. JOHN BASCOM, Williamstown, Mass.

Prof. ALBION W. SMALL, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, University of Chicago.

Prof. JOHN GRIER HIBBEN, Professor of Logic, Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.

III. VIVISECTION RESTRICTED BY UTILITY.

"Vivisection is a practice of such variety and complexity, that like warfare between nations, one can neither condemn it nor approve it unless some careful distinctions be first laid down. * * * Within certain limitations we regard Vivisection to be so justified by utility as to be legitimate, expedient, and right. Beyond these boundaries it is cruel, monstrous, and wrong.

"We consider as *wholly unjustifiable* the common practice * * * of subjecting animals to torture in the laboratory or classroom, merely for the purpose of demonstrating well-known and accepted facts. We hold that the infliction of torment upon a living animal under such circumstances is not justified by necessity, nor is it a fitting exhibition for the contemplation of youth.

"We believe, therefore, that the common interests of Humanity and Science demand that Vivisection, like the study of human anatomy in the dissecting-room, should be brought under the direct supervision and control of the State. The practice, whether in public or in private, should be restricted by law to certain definite objects, and surrounded by every possible safeguard against license or abuse."

To this statement (which represents the sentiment of two members of the committee, Titus Munson Coan, M. D., and Albert Leffingwell, M. D.,) 891 signatures were affixed, including 555 members of the medical profession. By a few signers, some changes in phraseology were made; but the great majority, including all of the following persons, affixed their names without modifying the statement in any way:—

HERBERT SPENCER, Author, London.

Sir EDWIN ARNOLD, Author, and Editor of the "London Telegraph," London:—

"It is with this that I agree, detesting and dreading unlicensed Vivisection. But I love and honor Science too much to deny her any right, exercised with true scientific spirit; that is, with reverence, mercy, and love to all living things. I would hardly allow even an angel to vivisect without anæsthetics."

The fourth statement, Sir Edwin Arnold characterizes as "the language of scientific devils."

ROBERT BRAITHWAITE, M. D., F. L. S., London:—

" . . . After facts have been sufficiently established, it is not necessary to repeat experiments for individual satisfaction, still less for demonstration to students; the facts should be accepted from the teacher equally with other facts which cannot be demonstrated."

President DAVID H. COCHRAN, Ph.D., LL.D., Polytechnic Institute, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Prof. T. M. BALLIET, M. D., Professor of Therapeutics, Dartmouth Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa.

Prof. T. GAILLARD THOMAS, M. D., College of Physicians and Surgeons, Consulting Surgeon of the State Women's Hospital, N. Y.

SIMON BARUCH, M. D., Physician to the Manhattan General Hospital, N. Y. and late Physician and Surgeon to the N. Y. Juv. Asylum.

(Would permit Vivisection for demonstration, under anæsthesia.)

Prof. GEO. MONTGOMERY TUTTLE, M. D., Professor of Gynæcology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York.

Prof. ANDREW H. SMITH, M. D., Post-Graduate School, Attending Physician of the Presbyterian Hospital, N. Y.

Prof. ALONZO BOOTHBY, M. D., Associate Professor of Surgery, Boston, School of Medicine:—

“As the matter is a very important one, and as there has been such an unnecessary and absurd use of animals to amuse students and idlers, I send you my protest, with the hope that your object is to lessen the evil.”

DANIEL COOK M. D., New York City:—

“In my experience, certain Vivisections are performed mostly for the most unworthy object of making the lectures sensational above those at other colleges,—exactly as our theatres and newspapers vie with one another in furnishing blood-curdling plays, or sensational news.”

JOHN ALLAN WYETH, M. D. President of the Faculty of the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital, New York.

ALBERT MCSULLY, M. D., M. Ch., L. M., Queen's University; Formerly Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy in Queen's College, Ireland, New York City:—

“A person actively engaged in Vivisection is inclined to subscribe to the fourth statement. The whole mind is absorbed in the subject; and clear unbiassed reasoning is then out of the question. I felt thus myself, at one time, when full of my subject, as well as full of youthful ardor. After mature deliberation, I freely and unconditionally subscribe to this statement.”

G. B. HOPE, M. D., New York City:—

“From what I have been witness to in several steps of my student career, I am heartily in sympathy with your investigation. I believe in the severest control governing Vivisection. Every class-room exhibition particularly should be prohibited as useless and demoralizing. I would

have every experimenter file an application, giving the nature and intention of the operation, and subsequently report the number, size, and quality of animals employed, with the results obtained. Such a course would check needless and vicious operations."

(Dr. Hope graduated twenty years ago from a medical college notorious for its extreme Vivisections.)

ARCHIBALD T. BANNING, M. D., President City Medical Association, Mt. Vernon, N. Y. :—

"I well remember when a student the feelings of horror that arose on seeing certain experiments. . . The first experiment was altogether an outrage; the second, though of some utility, had already been sufficiently demonstrated, and a mere statement from the professor would have accomplished as much instruction as ocular evidence. The impression thus made on the unformed minds of students is bad, and might have a tendency to develop some morbid psychopathic action. I have such caes in view."

JOHN L. SCHOOLCRAFT, M. D., Schenectady, N. Y. :—

"The continual practice of Vivisection by assistant lecturers and others to show what has been thoroughly proven by men of reputation, should be absolutely prohibited."

WILLIAM J. BURR, M. D., late Acting Staff-Surgeon, U. S. A., Newark Valley, N. Y. :—

"I have seen most kindly conducted experiments, and also others most abhorrent. In my opinion, Vivisection should be under restrictions, and conducted without pain."

S. P. MOORE, M. D., Munnville, N. Y. :—

"I am aware that we are apt to forget what is right in efforts after fame. As I grow older, certain scenes before a class of young men seem to me of very doubtful propriety. Medical students are apt to be rough enough without such sights."

JONATHAN KNEELAND, M. D., S. Onondaga, N. Y. :—

"If we know less of the mysteries of existence by refraining from tormenting our pets, we shall at any rate increase the total joy of animal life."

WILLIAM H. MUNN, M. D., New York City :—

"No undergraduate to attempt it; only by a professor, and with the least pain."

JOHN PARMENTER, M. D., Prof. of Anatomy and Clinical Surgery, University of Buffalo, Surgeon to the Erie Co. Fitch and Children's Hospitals, Buffalo, N. Y.

ARCHIBALD M. CAMPBELL, M. D., Consulting Physician in the Home for Incurables, N. Y. City, Member of the Academy of Medicine, Physician to the N. Y. Infant Asylum, etc., Mt. Vernon, N. Y.

GEORGE M. GOULD, M. D., Editor of the "Medical News," Philadelphia, Pa. :—

"Whenever possible, under anæsthesia."

(Dr. Gould's views regarding vivisection have been well expressed in his recent work, "The Meaning and Method of Life" from which we quote and italicize the following: "If a very limited use of vivisection experiment is necessary for scientific and medical progress, *it must be regulated by law, carried out with jealous guarding against excess and against suffering, and the maimed animals painlessly killed when the experiment is complete. The practice carried on by conceited jackanapes to prove over and over again already ascertained results, to minister to egotism, for didactic purposes, — these are not necessary, and must be forbidden.*")

HERMAN MYNTER, M. D., Professor of Surgery, Niagara University, Buffalo, N. Y.

JAMES E. KELLY, M. D., F. R. C. S., Consulting Surgeon, French Hospital, New York City.

O. B. DOUGLASS, M. D., Surgeon to the Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital, late President of the Medical Society of the County of New York, etc.

CHARLES S. MACK, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, University of Michigan, Ann Harbor, Mich. :

" . . . Regard as useless much that some regard as useful."

President MARTIN KELLOGG, LL.D., University of California, Berkeley, Cal.

President HENRY WADE ROGERS, LL.D., Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

President ELMER H. CAPEN, D. D. Tufts College, Mass.

President CHARLES KENDALL ADAMS, LL.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

R. H. THURSTON, LL.D., Director of Sibley College, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

C. C. EVERETT, D. D., Dean of Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Mass.

GEORGE HODGES, D. D., Dean of Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Mass.

JAMES O. MURRAY, Dean of Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.

CYRUS NORTHROP, LL.D., President University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. :—

"Vivisection is practiced more than is necessary; it ought undoubtedly to be restrained. Doubtless it has its uses in teaching, but its value in investigation has been overrated."

Prof. WILLIAM JAMES, M. D., Author; Professor of Psychology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. :—

“If public opinion could constitute the check, I should prefer that; but that would necessarily be ineffectual. I think there will be great difficulty in defining by law what is legitimate, or in having whatever law were made discriminately administered. In principle, however, I have not a moment’s hesitation in standing up for the vivisector being outwardly responsible for his acts.”

IV—V. VIVISECTION WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS.

“Vivisection, or experimentation upon living creatures, must be looked at simply as a method of studying the phenomena of Life. With it morality has nothing to do. It should be subject neither to criticism, supervision, nor restrictions of any kind. It may be used to any extent desired by any experimenter (no matter what degree of extreme or prolonged pain it may involve) for demonstration before students of the statements contained in their text-books, as an aid to memory; for confirmation of theories; for original research; or for any conceivable purpose of investigation into vital phenomena. We consider that sentiment has no place in the physiological laboratory; that animals have there no “rights” which Man is called upon to notice or respect. * * *

To the above statement 109 signatures were affixed, including two Presidents of leading Universities. Another statement, slightly differing from this but affirming the same principles, received 172 names. For signatures, see the Report.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

Hon. ARBA N. WATERMAN, Illinois Appellate Court, Chicago, Ill. :—

“Civilization in its moral aspect consists in a heightened sympathy with and consideration for those men or animals in our power. It is impossible to train a child to indifference as regards the suffering of a dog, and at the same time to be mindful of the rights of little children.

“It is immaterial whether he who proposes to torture be an ignorant savage or a distinguished savant. . . . To whomsoever in the cause of science the agony of a dying rabbit is of no consequence, it is likely that the old or worthless man will soon be a thing which in the cause of learning may well be sacrificed. There is no reason for thinking that Torquemada or Robespierre were naturally any more cruel than the educators who endeavor to add brilliancy and piquancy to their lectures by an exhibition of the manner in which a dumb brute behaves when dissected alive.”

Right Rev. GEGRGE F. SEYMOUR, LL.D., Bishop of Springfield :

“ I consider that the animated world beneath man is a sacred trust committed to him by the Creator, and for the right and just administration of which he will be held sternly accountable. Hence, I would place very severe restrictions upon Vivisection, and allow its practice only in cases where it was employed for settling questions which we have good reason to believe could not be answered except by such experiments. I would exclude absolutely, and forbid under penalty by law, all exhibitions to students of Vivisection as illustrating ascertained and recorded facts of science.”

From H. R. BRISSETT, M. D., Lowell, Mass. :—

“ Anæsthesia is good while it lasts, but I have often seen it pass off, and the experimenter go on with the work in hand without renewing it; and all the class saw with revulsion that there was real torture in the case.”

From CLAYTON L. HILL, M. D., Buffalo, N. Y. :—

“ I know from personal experience that medical and surgical research does not demand the fearful suffering and waste of life that is entailed upon the lower animals. I have seen many hundreds of Vivisections, and not one of them developed a new truth or an idea not already well established. Vivisection as practised in medical schools is simply a sort of theatrical performance for the benefit of the students and the glory of the professors.”

From LUIGI GALVANI DOANE, M. D., New York City :—

“ Put me down as the antagonist of Vivisection in any form. The office of the physician is to heal wounds and to save life, not to take it.”

From GEORGE H. PAYNE, M. D., Boston, Mass :—

“ I believe fully that we have no right to torture God’s dumb creatures, and that it does little or no good to experiment upon animals.”

J. W. THOMSON, M. D., New York City :—

“ We do not believe that Vivisection ever gave knowledge that led to the relief of a single human being from pain, or in any way helped to ameliorate human suffering. This diabolical practice is totally needless as well as dastardly inhuman. No man who has been guilty of Vivisection ought to be allowed to practise as a physician. Imagine any one coming from a torture-chamber to see a sick child, or to have a mission to help suffering humanity! How can one who is callous to animal suffering yearn to help his fellow-man?”

From A. ROSE, M. D., New York :—

“ There can be no nobler cause than the prevention of cruelty to animals in Vivisection. During the Middle Ages tortures were inflicted under the very eyes and strict supervision of awfully learned physicians, and thus we see that learning does not prevent us from cruelty. We have to be reminded of this example.”

From President W. P. JOHNSTON, Geneva College, Pa. :—

“My opposition to Vivisection is not so much because of the pain to the animal dissected (it dies in a little while), but because of injury to the moral nature of the animal dissecting, that lives probably for many years, and has *other* chances on other animals than dogs and cats !”

From JOHN H. KEYSER, Hartford, Conn. :—

“I was Superintendent of the Stranger's Hospital in New York at a time when Vivisection was freely practised upon animals by young student physicians. From that experience I formed the opinion that it was wicked, wanton, and cruel to clothe these young inexperienced men with despotic power over animals, and I forbade the practice. Mercy towards the helpless brute creation is, in my judgment, ample argument against Vivisection, and it ought to cease.”

From JOHN BOARDMAN, M. D., Buffalo, N. Y. :—

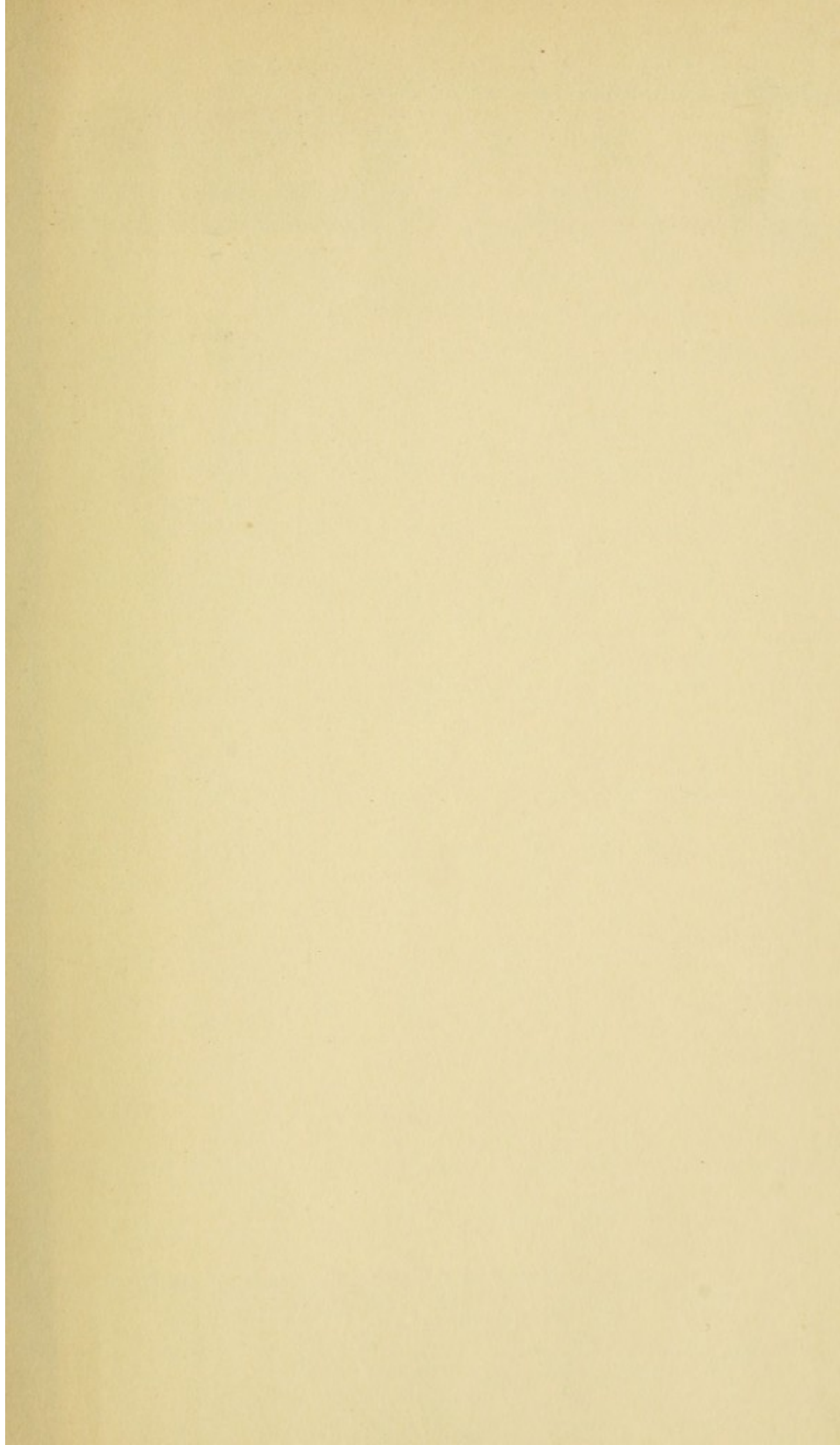
“I do not believe that any real good comes to the ordinary student from class Vivisection. On the other hand, in my opinion, the humane part of man is injured and the diabolical part comes nearer to the surface.”

From THOMAS B. FOWLER, M. D., Cohocton, N. Y. :—

“I do not think the impression left on the mind of the average medical student as a result of witnessing the mutilation of animals is one that really adds to his available store of knowledge, or tends to aid him in prescribing for suffering humanity. It is impossible to estimate the baneful effects of such experiences on the minds of men whose actions are largely governed by impulse or propensity.”

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