

Evidence of Sir Frederick Treves.

Contributors

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Royal College of Surgeons of England

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Evidence of Sir Frederick Treves.

Many statements have been made, by the opponents of all experiments on animals, to the effect that Sir Frederick Treves has said that these experiments are fallacious. The facts are as follows:—Ten years ago, in an address on a surgical subject, he said: “Many years ago, I carried out, on the Continent, sundry operations on the intestines of dogs, but such are the differences between the human and the canine bowel, that when I came to operate upon man I found I was much hampered by new experience, that I had everything to unlearn, and that my experiments had done little but unfit me to deal with the human intestine. This reference to a single point of surgery was magnified into a general censure of all experiments on animals; and, in April, 1902, Sir Frederick Treves found it necessary to make a public protest against the way in which his name had been used. His letter in *The Times*, 18th April, 1902, is not in need of comment:—

ANTI-VIVISECTION METHODS.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Times*.

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to a letter in *The Times* of April 9th, signed by Mr. Trist as Secretary of the London Anti-Vivisection Society. In this letter it is stated that I have testified as to the fallacy of vivisection.

My solitary utterance on the subject of vivisection is contained in an address delivered at Birmingham, in October, 1898 (*Lancet*, November 5th, 1898). Speaking of the suturing of intestine, I said that I had found that operations upon the intestines of dogs were useless as a means of fitting the surgeon for operations upon the human bowel.

Those who are familiar with the controversial methods of the anti-vivisection party will not be surprised that certain of my remarks have been cunningly isolated from the context and have been used (in advertisements, pamphlets, and speeches), to condemn all vivisection experiments as useless.

The fallacy of vivisection can hardly be said to be established by the failure of a solitary series of operations dealing with one small branch of practical surgery.

No one is more keenly aware than I am of the great benefits conferred upon suffering humanity by certain researches carried out by means of vivisection.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

FREDERICK TREVES.

6. WIMPOLE STREET, W.

April 14th.

