

"Each fact these wretches say they wish to prove on animals, by cruelty, was known to me just forty years ago. They all were published, proved beyond all doubt, and had been proved for years, when I then commenced to study my profession; and, being facts, they have stood all tests since then, and still are acted on; the falseness, therefore, of such a plea must be apparent. No torture at the stake, no atrocities by Indians, nothing that I have ever read or heard of in the annals of cruelty, can equal them.—Fiendish in their finish, merciless in their manner, and un pitying in their detail, such experiments make one's blood run cold, and cause a creep and shudder.

"It seems incredible that this loathsome business, which would disgrace the lowest type of savages, should be carried on in a Christian country, by persons of education, who are daily entrusted with the treatment of men, women, and children, helpless through illness." The writer goes on to picture in highly-coloured flights of imagination, the writhing forms of cats, dogs, and birds, which these merciless men will have before their eyes, when on their death-beds; and becoming still more excited he exclaims, "It is all most horrible! Brutal beyond conception, useless beyond belief—the construction of animals being so widely different from that of the human body; not one day longer should the base thing be!"

Such remarks, looked at in the light of Medical Science, cannot but call forth pity and contempt; but, nevertheless, it should not be forgotten that these and other letters of like tendency and absurdity, exert no inconsiderable degree of influence upon the public, who, worked up by them, eagerly flock to sign petitions to Parliament, for the abolition of vivisection, or in other words, to effectually retard the further progress of the Healing Art.

It would seem that the natural and inherent striving after the wonderful and the mysterious, which is so especially characteristic of the ignorant and the sentimental,

operates in the case of these virtuous agitators—whether they see it or not. Their principles, if adopted in the past, would have kept us still in the age of alchemy and astrological magic; probably would have found us still the firm believers in the chiromancy of plants, by which, for example, caudate leaves were a certain indication of cardiac disease; or possibly homœopathic traders gravely dispensing worthless infinitesimals, a practice which is nothing more nor less than a modern form of Paracelsian mysticism.

An article in the *Nineteenth Century* for February, 1882, on "The Uselessness of Vivisection," by Mrs. Algernon Kingsford, M.D., contains the following remark:—"The writings both of Harvey and of Servetus, prove incontestably that vivisectional experiment served neither as a basis nor as a means of necessary elucidation in the development of Harvey's teaching." How can such a positive assertion be explained, in the face of what we have already seen to be Harvey's own words?

The most charitable supposition is that the writer is totally ignorant of the History of Medicine; another explanation might be the blinding effect of fanatical zeal, entirely suspending calm argumentative consideration of the subject, however much the writer may know to the contrary.

The last great achievement of experimental Pathology has been the discovery of the specific organism of Phthisis, or the bacillus tuberculosis, made by the accurate and exhaustive experiments of Koch and Baumgarten.

The infectiveness of tubercle has been made the subject of experiment for many years by different experimental observers, of whom the following may be mentioned: Buhl, Villemin, Chauveau, and Creighton. Dr. Martin, of Paris, also made a number of experiments upon guinea-pigs, clearly proving that the injection of tubercular matter into the peritoneal cavity gave rise to a true tubercular condition; while in