

communities for the welfare of the brute creation and the enactment of laws to enforce the growing humane sentiment of the age.

"The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals" (Henry Bergh, President) is doing a needful work, the influence of which is felt all over the country. In 1883 it investigated 5,400 cases, prosecuted 768 cases, mercifully destroyed 1,816 animals, and took 1,426 from work. The society's receipts were \$21,644.85. In the United States, Canada, and Nova Scotia there are now 91 societies and branches for the prevention of cruelty to animals, all organized since 1865. The societies issue seven monthly publications. The march of Mercy is onward. Acts of kindness uplift humanity. "Blessed are the merciful."

Similar efforts are making abroad.

The London *World* says of the recent debate in the House of Lords on the bill to prohibit pigeon-shooting matches: "It was abundantly proved in the course of the debate that pigeon-shooting entails the systematic practice of the most execrable cruelties. The physical injuries done to the birds in order that they may baffle the marksmen, or that they may be more difficult to hit, are of the most hideous description. It would be interesting to know whether these details are adequately comprehended by the polite society which they may be held most immediately to concern." The *World* goes on to excuse the seeming inhumanity of this polite society by saying: "But we live in a time when the pace is too good to permit us to stop for any of the conventional platitudes of humanity. . . . It is not that human nature is worse or more callous now than it was formerly. It is simply that we live too quickly and have less time to think."

A singular defence surely! It was not for want of time; for, in the case under notice, a long debate occurred twice, at intervals of several months; the subject was further discussed at length in the daily press and the monthly magazines, and it was certainly not decided as it was for want of time. On the contrary, the champions of the sport in the House of Lords deliberately ignored all the revolting cruelties which are connected with it, and plainly put themselves in the position of being determined to retain the

amusement, utterly regardless of its inhumanity.

If what the *World* says about the upper class of English society is true, there is great need of social reform over there. Agnosticism would appear to have done its work in eliminating the best of the Christian virtues, while the modern spirit has, with all its enterprise, not produced among the upper classes a gentler or loftier mode of life than old Rome in her tottering decrepitude could furnish.

The following facts from *The London Times* we submit to the vivisectionists of this country.

"A return just published, showing the number of experiments performed upon living animals during the year 1883 under the vivisection act, is a remarkable document. It appears that in England and Scotland, of the 44 persons licensed for the purpose, 32 had tried experiments, and 4 in Ireland. Total number of experiments, 569. Of these, 290 were carried out under the restrictions of the license alone, 55 under special certificates dispensing with the use of anesthetics, and 122 under certificates dispensing with the obligation to kill the animal before recovering from anesthesia. Under certificates permitting experiments on cats, dogs, horses, mules, and asses there were 102 operations, but it appears that only four or five were upon cats or dogs, and none at all upon the other animals named. As regards the 290 cases first mentioned, together with a number carried out under certificates proscribing anesthetics, the animals were rendered insensible during the whole of the operations, and were not allowed to regain sensibility. Their sufferings are accordingly quite inappreciable by the most acute sympathizer. The 55 experiments without anesthetics consisted in simple inoculation or hypodermic injection with morbid matter, whose operation it was desired to discover, and the pain inflicted was, at the most, that of ordinary vaccination and its results. Of the 122 experiments in which the animals were allowed to regain sensibility, 114 also consisted principally in inoculation, and were, for the most part, connected with an important inquiry into the nature of tubercular affections. No pain was inflicted save in some 14 or 15 instances, and even in these it was trifling. In the remaining eight cases anesthetics were used, and though the surgical operations amounted to more than a mere puncture, the pain would be only that usually attending the healing of a surgical wound. The experiments upon cats and dogs are classified under the heads already mentioned. The conclusion of the Inspector's report is that "the amount of direct or indirect