

insensibility to pain, by appropriate anæsthetics; and they are treated, when they survive, with all that humanity and skillful care which may mitigate pain, when such really remains, or restore them to their prior health, which is certainly one of the most desirable results of the experiment, in both a physiological and a pathological view. None but the wilfully ignorant, or the perversely blind, can fail to know these facts. Was it then anything less than a rebuke to the common sense of a universally and deservedly beloved Queen, the mother of a numerous family, whose parturient agony had been so often nullified by anæsthetics, that Her ministers should present to Her, for Royal sanction, such a "Bill of Pains and Penalties," thereafter to be inflicted on the very class of men to whom Her Majesty was indebted for so priceless a boon? Was not this the very bathos of Bœotian irony?

But despite all the remonstrances of sober reason, and all the regrets of genuine humanity, there, on the Imperial Statute Book, stands the Act, and there it must stand until the ponderous elephantine slowness and mulish obstinacy of John Bull shall permit his arrival at the goal of common sense.

The anti-vivisectionists have secured the Royal seal to their death-dealing bond, and just like Shylock, they have never dreamed of the human blood its execution must cost, nor of the human pain its non-existence might avert.

Is it any wonder that both the scientists and the laity of other lands are now pointing with the finger of scorn at their British neighbours, and ridiculing, in very pungent terms, their rotten sentimentality and national hypocrisy? What other terms, indeed, can they select, in which truthfully and frankly to characterise the whole legislative pretence and procedure, or the purblind fanaticism of the unreasoning bipeds who frightened Parliament into the committal of such an act of treason against the true interests of science and humanity.

No longer now, as erewhile, may the student of medicine, or the cultivator of physiological science, seek for instruction in the schools of England, Scotland, or Ireland. "Othello's occupation's gone."

The young men of Canada, as well as those of other countries, must now wend their way to France, Germany, or Italy, (as indeed they already are doing in considerable numbers,) in order to acquire that knowledge of animal organization, animal functions, and animal diseases, which they know to be indispensable to the rational and successful practice of the medical profession. Continental physiological science is yet unshackled. "Wherever liberty is," said Franklin, "there is my country;" and just so now, say our most talented young men, who desire to complete their studies wherever the best and largest facilities for so doing are presented. Paris, Berlin, Vienna, and a goodly number of the revived seats of science in Italy, are now the objective points to which our young men must direct their pilgrimage, in search of that which our motherland denies them the privilege of there obtaining. And here I may, with both pertinency and justice, on the present occasion of reading before your Society an article which I have translated from that splendid periodical, the *Rivista Sperimentale*, state the gratifying fact, that the Italian schools, not only of medicine, but of every other department of science, are rapidly revindicating their too long neglected honours, and proving their right to the resumption of rank, in the very front of the allied forces of free and fearless scientific research.

The article to which I invite your attention is from the pen of *Professor Bianchi* of Naples. The subject is entitled, "*The Cortical Functional Compensations of the Cerebrum*," and I cannot avoid flattering myself that it is one which cannot fail to interest warmly every member present, who has endeavoured to follow the march of modern