

"One good fruit of the present Congress is 'that our foreign brethren, seeing our straits, will go home determined to resist to the utmost all attempts to put the physiological enquirer into chains, for we are assured that experiment is the best weapon with which he can fight against the powers of darkness of the mysteries of life.' "

Sir James Paget thought it intolerable that he might pay a rat-catcher to poison the vermin about his place, and not be permitted to use them for the good of mankind, or that he should have to appeal to a Government official for leave to prick a mouse.

Dr. Lauder Brunton was engaged in England in experimenting with the poison of venomous serpents, when restrictive legislation was introduced and put an end to them. But the Government that introduced the legislation supplied Dr. Weir Mitchell and Dr. Reichert, who lived in a more reasonable country, with the snakes, and they succeeded in isolating the poison. This was necessary before discovering an antidote to a poison which annually carries off twenty thousand victims.

Mr. Horsley, in the *British Medical Journal*, protests against the difficulty of obtaining a license, and Dr. Wyatt Johnston observed that the incubation period of disease should be lengthened, since it usually developed before a license could be procured. Scientific men are averse to be licensed like publicans or prostitutes. They refuse to work in an atmosphere of distrust and suspicion, even upon subjects not prescribed by law, and object to having their laboratories searched by detectives as if they were smugglers' dens. Notwithstanding the existence of a law which limited the number of persons performing experiments to twenty-six in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and under which the Government inspectors continually spoke of the cruelty practiced as "insignificant," "inappreciable," "equal to that caused by vaccination"; the opponents of vivisection were not satisfied. This was in the face of the report of the inspectors appointed by the Government. In 1878 they reported that there were not more than forty cases in which "an amount of suffering worth noticing was inflicted." In 1879 the number was twenty-five, ten of which were on frogs, and in the other fifteen the suffering was about equal to that caused by vaccination. In 1880 and the two following years the inspectors report that there were only ten cases in which any pain was caused. The Irish inspectors reported that "the experiments were free from any appreciable suffering." Mr. Bush, in his report for 1884, admits that the "amount of direct or indirect actual suffering as the result of physiological and therapeutic experiments performed under the Act in England and Scotland was wholly