

labor to diminish. We labor to save *life—human life* with all its ties. Were I to see a man tortured with facial neuralgia, and knew that I could relieve him by inflicting equal pain on a dog or horse, I hardly know what my decision would be. I suppose I should decide in favor of the man. But that is not the question which faces our profession in regard to experiments on animals; it is how we may better our knowledge and increase our power to save the life of husband and father—of wife or mother—of the child in whose life the hearts and hopes of its parents are bound.

“Certain of our opponents have their sympathies greatly excited by the occasional cry of a dog enduring pain from pharmacological experiment. Have they listened to the wail of the new-made widow? Some of them use their fiercest invective to calumniate those who have kept animals alive a few days after an experiment, that the causation of disease may be better understood and its prevention made possible. Have they realized the years of penury and misery too often the lot of the orphan? They have not felt personal responsibility for the life of the bread winner, or they would surely say with us, kill a hundred, kill a thousand animals if you have any reasonable hope of thereby preserving to one wife her husband, to one child its mother.” (p. 254.)

Since the greater part of the above was written, the unexpected news of Newell Martin's death has come from England. Our consolation for the relatively early loss of so brilliant a physiologist can only be that in the time given to him for scientific work he obeyed his own exhortation at the close of the lecture inaugurating the biological work of the Johns Hopkins University: “Let us, then, each work loyally, earnestly, truthfully, so that when the time comes, as it will come sooner or later, in one way or another, to each of us, to depart hence, we may carry with us a good conscience, and be able to say that in our time no slipshod piece of work ever left the laboratory; that no error we knew of was persisted in; that our only desire was to know the truth. Let us leave a record which, if it perchance contain the history of no great feat in the memory of which our successors will glory, will at least contain not

one jot or one tittle of which they can be ashamed.”

The isolation of the mammalian heart will always remain one of the triumphs of experimental physiology.

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*Anleitung zur Mikrochemischen Analyse der wichtigsten Organischen Verbindungen.* Von H. BEHRENS, Professor an der Polytechnischen Schule zu Delft. Zweites Heft. Leopold Voss, Hamburg und Leipzig. 1896. 106 pp.

The second part of Behrens' text-book of microchemical organic analysis deals with the important fibres: those of woven goods; wool, silk, cotton, linen, hemp, jute and others; and those of paper; the cellular fibres of straw, alfalfa and wood. The microchemical study of these substances with reagents and in polarized light, and methods for examining woven goods and paper, complete the book. It is well printed and illustrated and a complete work in itself. Besides the illustrations in the text, three beautifully colored plates reproduce the appearance of the different fibres in polarized light and when stained with different dyes. It is well to remember that Prof. Behrens is not only an authority on this subject, but is the only authority for the student, as he has written the only text-books. The organic analysis is a worthy continuation of the author's inorganic analysis.

E. R.

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

##### CHEMICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.

THE 91st meeting of the Society was held Thursday evening, December 10, 1896. The President, Dr. de Schweinitz was in the chair, with thirty members and several guests present.

The first paper of the evening was by Prof. H. W. Wiley on 'The Mechanical Analyses of Phosphatic Slags.'

The second paper was by Prof. Charles E. Munroe, entitled 'An Early Specimen of Gun Cotton.' Prof. Munroe called attention to a sample of gun cotton which he had received from Dr. W. A. Hedrick, some two years ago, and which had been for many years