

known the facts as to experiments on animals in this country; the immense importance to the welfare of mankind of such experiments; and the great saving of human life and health directly attributable to them.

The great advance that has been made during the last quarter of a century in our knowledge of the functions of the body, and of the causes of diseases, would have been impossible without a combination of experiment and observation.

The use of antiseptics, and the modern treatment of wounds, is the direct outcome of the experiments of Pasteur and Lister. Pasteur's discovery of the microbial cause of puerperal fever has in itself enormously reduced the deaths of women in child-birth.

The nature of tuberculosis is now known, and its incidence has materially diminished.

We owe the invention of diphtheria antitoxin entirely to experiments on animals.

The causes of plague, cholera, typhoid, Mediterranean fever and sleeping sickness have been discovered solely by the experimental method.

Not only have a large number of drugs been placed at our disposal, but accurate knowledge has replaced the empirical use of many of those previously known.

The evidence before the Royal Commission has shown that these experiments are conducted with proper care; the small amount of pain or discomfort inflicted is insignificant compared with the great gain to knowledge and the direct advantage to humanity.

While acknowledging in general the utility of the experimental method, efforts have been made by a section of the public to throw discredit on all experiments involving the use of animals. The Research Defense Society will therefore endeavor to make it clear that medical and other scientific men who employ these methods are not less humane than the rest of their countrymen, who daily, though perhaps unconsciously, profit by them.

The society proposes to give information to all inquiries, to publish *précis*, articles and leaflets, to make arrangements for lectures, to send speakers, if required, to debates, and to

assist all who desire to examine the arguments on behalf of experiments on animals. It hopes to establish branches in our chief cities, and thus to be in touch with all parts of the kingdom; and to be at the service of municipal bodies, hospitals and other public institutions.

The society was formed on January 27 of the present year, and already numbers more than 800 members. It is not an association of men of science or of medical men alone; its membership has been drawn from all departments of public life, and includes representatives of every class of educated Englishmen and Englishwomen, including many who have taken an active part in the prevention of cruelty to animals. This fact is in itself a remarkable protest against the attacks which have been made on the researches that the society has been formed to defend.

The annual subscription is 5s. to cover working expenses, but larger subscriptions or donations will be gladly received. The acting hon. treasurer, *pro tem.*, is Mr. J. Luard Pattisson, C.B. (of the Lister Institute); and an account in the society's name has been opened with Messrs. Coutts and Co., 440 Strand. The hon. secretary is Mr. Stephen Paget, 70 Harley Street, W., to whom all communications should be addressed.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY¹

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY,

June 3d, 1908.

TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY.

Gentlemen: I hereby decline to tender you my resignation as Dean and Professor of Mechanical Engineering in the L. C. Smith College of Applied Science, and ask you to

¹This letter from Dean Kent to the board of trustees of Syracuse University is printed for the information of scientific men. It need scarcely be said that SCIENCE is ready to print a statement in justification of the administration of Syracuse University from the chancellor or from any responsible source.—ED.

vote upon the question of my dismissal, which has been recommended by the Executive Committee. I thus give you the opportunity to vote against a faithful servant of the University in order to please the Chancellor.

I believe the trustees are satisfied that the vague, indefinite and unsupported charges made against me by the Chancellor have no foundation in fact but are based on his unreasoning imagination, and that if it were possible to give me a fair trial before a jury of expert engineering educators, I would not only be acquitted of all charges, but would be commended for my five years of faithful and efficient labors. I believe, moreover, that the majority of the trustees would gladly vote to retain me in my position but for the fact, as I stated in a letter to the trustees dated May 29th, that "they are afraid that if they voted against the Chancellor he would resign, and as the University needs money, which they think he alone can raise, he must be retained for his money-getting ability, no matter how objectionable he may be in other respects."

I think the trustees are mistaken in their idea that the Chancellor is the only one who can raise money for the University, for other colleges and universities all over the land are getting large sums of money without his aid. Even if it were true that he is needed as a money-raiser, I venture to suggest to the trustees that the two capacities in which the Chancellor is preeminent, viz., oratorical power and power of getting money, do not necessarily qualify him for the exercise of autocratic power over all the interests of a great university. They do not qualify him as a judicious spender of money, as an educator, as a judge of men, as a ruler of deans and faculties, as a disciplinarian, as a landscape artist, as an architect, or as a harmonizer of conflicting interests or ideas. The autocratic system of government of a university is a bad system.

A writer in the *Independent* of December, 28th, 1905, thus described the situation in a university under autocratic control:

When the wisdom of letting a man lord it over an aggregate of employees instead of conferring

with a company of scholars is questioned, the answer is the efficiency with which the autocrat can get things done. The president gets money and students and builds marble palaces. . . . The president may draw students from one institution to another; he does not create them. The marble palaces may be mausoleums for the preservation of the corpses of dead ideas and monuments erected to the decay of learning.

I suggest that if it is necessary to have an orator and a money getter for the chancellor of a university, there is no reason why his activity should not be confined to those things in which he is an expert. There is no reason why he should be given autocratic power in things in which he is not expert. The administration of these things had better be left to the separate colleges, to the University Senate, to committees of trustees, or to minor officials, as may be most suitable for the different objects to be accomplished.

In closing I wish to comment on a rumor which I am informed is being industriously circulated. It is to the effect that I have entered upon a fight to do all the damage I can to Syracuse University. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, I have often said, and I say now, that the fight I have been making is the best thing that could happen to the University. I am giving it a house-cleaning which it very much needs; I am bringing to the light of day some things that should be exposed; I have revealed the existence of certain diseases, and have prescribed the remedies; that is all. Some day the University will have a higher ideal than that of mere bigness, a Chancellor who is an educator and who will not try to be an autocrat, a board of trustees that will be in touch with educational affairs, and deans and faculties who can keep their positions without sacrificing their self-respect. Then the humiliation through which the University is now passing will be forgotten and it will reach the dignity of being one of the great intellectual centers of the world.

Very respectfully,

WM. KENT