

ton himself.<sup>3</sup> It had been discovered in the Benton beds of Kansas and is stated to consist of some fragmentary ribs and a part of a humerus. The species is supposed to be related to *Protostega*, but here again no name was imposed on the specimen. Dr. Williston pays me the compliment of regretting that I did not describe these materials, with which he could do little himself.

OLIVER P. HAY

WASHINGTON, D. C.,  
January 7, 1909

#### QUOTATIONS

##### AMMUNITION AGAINST THE ANTI-VIVISECTIONIST

As antagonism to vivisection is a form of incurable insanity, those who suffer from it are wholly indifferent to argument or facts, and their delusional convictions urge them irresistibly to constant repetition of the same mad acts, quite regardless of consequences to themselves or others. Hence is it that year after year these unfortunate people renew their efforts to secure legislative interference with or prohibition of the experiments with living animals upon which the progress of medical science depends and without which medical practise would be reduced to blind, or at least dim-eyed, empiricism.

That the anti-vivisectionists always find somebody to introduce their bills is a sad commentary on the intelligence of legislators, but this year, as so often before, the battle with well-intentioned ignorance must be fought again. There are now a few more triumphs over disease with which to confront the wild assertions and accusations of the agitators, but dependence must still be placed on arguments the adequacy of which has already been proved a hundred times—so often, indeed, that many of the same people whom they long since convinced have half forgotten essential parts of the evidence upon which the animal experimenters rely as a defense from the hampering restrictions that unreasoning sentimentalists would impose upon one of the most unselfish and successful classes of workers for the common good.

<sup>3</sup> *Kansas Univ. Quarterly*, I., 1902, p. 247.

There is danger in this forgetfulness, and to meet it the Committee on Experimental Medicine of the New York State Medical Society has begun the publication of a series of leaflets setting forth clearly and briefly the scientific and medical side of the vivisection controversy. One by Dr. E. L. Trudeau deals with "Animal Experimentation and Tuberculosis," another by Dr. James Ewing takes up with cancer research, and a third by Professor F. S. Lee treats of "The Sense of Pain in Man and the Lower Animals." Dr. Simon Flexner's contribution tells what vivisection has accomplished in the war against infectious diseases, and Dr. S. J. Meltzer discusses "The Function of the Thyroid Gland—an Important Chapter of Modern Medicine." A leaflet of a different kind is one giving eminent lay opinions, among those quoted in it being ex-President Eliot, of Harvard; President G. Stanley Hall, of Clark University; President E. H. Capen, of Tufts College; Bishop William Lawrence, of Massachusetts, and Dean Hodges, of the Cambridge Theological School. Dr. William H. Park takes up the great subject of "Diphtheria," the disease which would still be slaying its thousands had it not been absolutely conquered through vivisection alone.

Copies of these and other leaflets can be obtained upon application at the Academy of Medicine, 17 West Forty-third Street. They are intended especially for physicians, but they are full of ammunition which anybody can use in answer to silly talk about the cruelty or the uselessness of a method of investigation which is neither the one nor the other, but is, on the contrary, one to which animals and men alike are incalculably indebted for relief from pain.—*New York Times*.

#### AN IDLE CHALLENGE

THIS characteristic communication comes to us from the president of the Anti-Vivisection Society:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING SUN—*Sir*: Regarding your editorial attack in *The Evening Sun* of January 27 upon a leaflet issued by this society, I would say that I should be glad to have you attempt at our mass meeting (to be held at Car-