

entitled "The Truth about Vivisection." Mr. Baynes delivered the last lecture December 17 to a large and enthusiastic audience in Huntington Hall, Boston. It was an amplification of the article which he prepared for the *Woman's Home Companion*, July, 1921, and which at once aroused a howl of consternation from all of the antivivisection groups in the country. So much interest was aroused in the general question that the lecture committee of the Boston Society of Natural History reorganized itself into the Committee for the Protection of Animal Experimentation. An appeal for funds, signed by President Charles W. Eliot, Professor Richard P. Strong, M. D., Ernest Harold Baynes, Dr. John C. Phillips, Dr. Edward Wigglesworth, Dr. Townsend W. Thorndike and Dr. Thomas Barbour, brought a most encouraging response. The committee has published several statements, designed to instruct the community as to just what the results may be if the antivivisectionists succeed.

Cardinal O'Connell was one of the first to endorse the movement in a most inspiring letter which was followed by letters of endorsement from persons in all stations of life and representing many different interests, particularly Life Insurance Companies, Agricultural Interests and Charitable Organizations of many sorts.

The newspapers gave the work of the committee generous publicity and its efforts as a whole have become so successful that there is now a widely expressed desire that the work of the committee be carried forward by some permanent organization. The committee has studied carefully the organization and work of the Research Defense Society in England and it is probable that some organization of this sort will be founded.

To be really effective the Society should be national in its scope and have an able, active field secretary and should aim to protect the public from the mischievous activities, not only of the antivivisectionists, but the antivaccinationists, the medical freedomists, so-called, and all others who aim to lower the standards of medical education or jeopardize the public health in other ways.

A correspondence is invited with those in-

terested and our literature is available for free distribution.

EDWARD WIGGLESWORTH, PH. D.

J. C. PHILLIPS, M. D.

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FOR THE COMMITTEE

POISONOUS SPIDERS

One of the best reviews of our knowledge of the poisonous properties of spiders is contained in Dr. Henry C. McCook's beautifully illustrated volumes, "American spiders and their spinning work." In Volume 1, page 274, he concludes that most of the cases of serious poison in the United States are caused by the bite of the widely distributed Lineweaver, *Lactrodectus mactans*, and the Saltigrade, *Phidippus morsitans*. He cites an instance of serious sickness resulting from the bite on a man's back of *Lactrodectus*. He also thinks it very probable that the large Mygales, commonly called tarantulas, on account of their large fangs and exceptionally large supply of poison, can inflict very serious bites.

He cites instances of spiders killing fish and birds, in one instance the victims being two sunfish about two inches long, which were promptly killed by the poison of a spider I saw at work. From my description Dr. McCook thought this was a *Dolomedes*.

In his third volume Dr. McCook quotes Professor Bentkau of Bonn, who suffered very serious pain and general swelling from being twice bitten by a *Chiraianthium nutrix* on the fingers.

Dr. McCook thinks it most likely that even the bites of the first two mentioned species are in most instances of small consequence and that the bites of the great majority of spiders are of little more consequence than those of mosquitoes and not nearly as serious as the stings of bees, hornets, etc.

In instances that have come under my direct observation of spiders biting human beings the results have been comparable with mosquito bites.

F. R. WELSH

A LONG-LIVED WOODBORER

IN SCIENCE, Friday, August 5, 1921, H. E. Jaques, Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, contributed a note, "A Long-lived Wood-