

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
**THE NURSING RECORD**  
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,318

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 1913.

Vol. LI.

## EDITORIAL.

### THE NEED FOR PUBLIC ABATTOIRS.

One of the charms of the Lyceum Club to a generation of women keen to know, and anxious to help in social reform movements, is the constant opportunity the Club affords of coming into touch with those men and women engaged in the happy art of making the world a cleaner and more healthy place.

Last week the Animal Lovers were called together and had an opportunity, under the chairmanship of Lord Saye and Sele, of listening to rousing speeches on the special need there is for the protection of animals used for food, and the urgent necessity for slaughter reform and municipal abattoirs in this country. One Member of Parliament who has travelled widely, and made the question of public abattoirs his own, said, we are a hundred years behind the world in general on this question, and justly classed with Turkey and Spain.

Miss Damer Dawson, the Secretary of a special committee in connection with the Humanitarian League for the need for Humane Methods of Killing, gave a graphic description of the methods so far ahead of our own in Scandinavia, and also in Germany. A municipal abattoir near Munich, which with many others she visited, is a model in every way. Here not only the dear animals are considered, but the men condemned to slaughter animals for food are dehumanised as little as possible. The buildings are spacious, surrounded by grounds and gardens, the animals are not terrorised by looking on at the death, or smelling the blood of their kind, a real horror suffered by sensitive beasts in private

slaughter houses. After the day's work each man employed must immediately go to the baths and remove all trace of blood and put on clean clothes, he may then gain relief from work—which otherwise is inevitably demoralising—by gardening, games and other wholesome recreation; the aim is to keep the slaughterer human, and here once again the great German people have as ever grasped first causes, and realised how essential it is to remove a man from the environment of blood and to insist that he shall wash and be clean—unless the red stain of carnage is to steep his soul red, and he lose his instinct of purity and compassion.

The description given by Miss Damer Dawson of her visits to private slaughter houses in London, of which there are some 230, made one shiver, she pleaded for the shuddering animals, shrinking with terror from their fate, and for the men who slaughter them—in many instances under extremely repulsive conditions—conditions which must inevitably brutalise them. She advised that the public should insist upon legislation which would make the necessity of killing the millions of animals who die annually, as little painful and repulsive as possible, and she brought home the individual responsibility of each person present for the present savage conditions of slaughter.

Let us realise that there is no adequate or scientific inspection of the bodies of animals killed in private slaughter houses as there is in Germany and Scandinavia. That there is no law in this country to effect the compulsory stunning of animals before they are bled. That the horrible spectacle of killing, bleeding and dismembering animals can be watched by children, and we must realise that it is the duty of

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