

pany they would not be able to appeal to the public for funds with any success. In the first place, their Institution would have a mercantile character, which would tend to repel subscribers, and they had the opinion of counsel that under such circumstances it would be in the power of the subscribers at any time to agree to have the Institute wound up and the funds divided amongst themselves. To appeal to the public for subscriptions, therefore, under these conditions, would be absolutely hopeless. On the other hand, if the licence were granted, there could be inserted by the Board of Trade a condition that the funds of the Institute should be used only for scientific and charitable objects, and in that way their position would be perfectly secured. The only practical alternative, if it was still thought right to refuse their request, would be that they should be incorporated by Act of Parliament, a process which would involve very great loss of time, and also very serious expense. The importance of the subject which they had at heart was one which he thought need hardly be much dwelt upon. Preventive medicine, based upon bacteriology, was a matter of comparatively recent experience, but it had been making gigantic strides, and every year and almost every week, they were learning of new triumphs achieved in the discovery of the essential nature of disease, and of the means of preventing such disease. He might be permitted, perhaps, to refer to one or two illustrations of the value of the work carried on at such institutes both to man and to the lower animals. The work done by M. Pasteur for the rescue of those bitten by mad dogs from the horrible death of rabies was bearing invaluable fruits. It had been estimated that within four years at the Pasteur Institute twelve thousand lives had been saved. During the last six years four hundred and three British subjects had been treated, and out of those four hundred and three only seven had died. (Cheers.) If they took into account the loss of time involved in making arrangements for going to Paris, and considering also that the essence of M. Pasteur's treatment was to intercept the disease before it arrived at the vital organisms in the brain, they might anticipate a large amount of success if they had the means in this country of having the same treatment carried out. From Germany had come the discovery of what was termed tubercle bacillus—that was to say, the micro-organism which was the essential cause of tubercle, the greatest physical scourge

that afflicted the human race. To establish that bacillus was really the essential cause of this disease in all its diverse forms required a large amount of investigation such as could only be carried on in institutes like that which they desired to see established. That the Institute would be of great benefit also with regard to diseases of the lower animals might be seen from the discoveries made as to the cure of anthrax by M. Pasteur, and as to the treatment of another affliction known as "quarter-evil" by a scientist of Lyons. Various bacteriological laboratories had been already established in the British Islands, but it was universally allowed that none of those existing was in the least equal to a great Institute such as they desired to see established. One proof that such was the case was presented by the fact that our best workers in these subjects had been continually going to Paris or to Berlin for the superior advantages that they could obtain there. (Cheers.) He ventured to think that the mass of educated opinion represented by the deputation was surely more deserving of attention than the views of those who, with whatever excellent intentions, had petitioned against their scheme. (Cheers.) The truth was that objections were made because the petitioners objected altogether to the performance of experiments upon living animals and not because they thought there was already sufficient opportunity for work of this kind. If those petitioners knew how very small was the amount of suffering really inflicted upon the animals in such an Institute, and how scrupulous was the care taken to avoid all needless pain, they would not (at least the great majority of them would not) have made the opposition that they had made. (Cheers.) He even doubted whether the question of their being likely to perform experiments upon living animals was one which the Board of Trade had any fair reason to occupy itself with. (Cheers.) The licensing of places for the performance of such experiments and the licensing of individual experimenters had always rested with the Home Secretary. Foreign institutions such as that which they desired to see established had been largely endowed by the State, and he did not relinquish the hope that our Government might at some future time see its way to give them substantial aid. (Cheers.) But, however that might be, they ventured to hope that no department of this Government would oppose any unnecessary obstacle to an enterprise which had for its sole object the welfare of humanity, the health of mankind and the lower

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