

ground to complain of my action, if in a matter of such admitted difficulty, rousing as it does the strongest feelings of both sides, I did anything which would enable you to go before him, to whom Parliament has intrusted this subject, with the stamp of approval as it were from another Government Department which has nothing to do with the subject at all. Now, I hope I have put that shortly and plainly. What are your alternatives? You have said something to me on this subject to-day. You can, of course, if you choose, remove from your objects anything which could bring you within the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876. If you did that, my objections would be entirely removed. You could, if you chose, form yourselves as a society, vesting your property in trustees; associate yourselves under the Companies Act as a limited company, inserting a proviso that you should pay no dividends. Now, I should like to have before me the reasons in writing which have been urged to-day why none of these courses would meet your views. I can only say, in conclusion, that I have endeavoured to put to you the difficulty which I feel; that I will carefully consider what has been said to-day; and any documents which the promoters of the Association wish to place before me to enforce the views which have been expressed, I shall be glad to receive.

Sir JOHN LUBBOCK, in moving a vote of thanks to Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, said that Sir Henry Roscoe had authorised him to say that the further information which had been asked for should be furnished to the Board of Trade. Vivisection was after all a very small part of the question before them, unless, indeed, vivisection was to be understood as applying to the bacteria. (Laughter.) He would venture to remind Sir Michael that although Acts of Parliament might prevent them from destroying the bacteria, they could not prevent the bacteria from destroying human beings—(laughter)—and it seemed almost a significant fact that no members of the community, as he knew to his own cost, had suffered more from them than Members of the House of Commons. He had no reason to suppose that bacteria suffered at all, though human beings suffered very much from the bacteria. (Laughter.) The bacteria were now experimenting upon them, and all they asked was that they should be allowed to defend themselves from the bacteria. (Laughter.) Something had been said about agriculture, and he believed that such an Institute as this would add much to the prosperity of agriculture and probably of manufacturers and of commerce. As

regarded the technical points which had compelled the right hon. gentleman to adopt the course which he had taken, he thought if Sir Michael went into the matter he would find at least two precedents in which an opposite line had been taken in cases where vivisection was practised.

The PRESIDENT.—I ought to mention that any of the precedents which have been mentioned I should like to have placed before me.

The deputation then withdrew.

HOW TO SPEND A "DAY OFF."

By J. MORLAND.

THE other morning I awoke, feeling, in a half dreamy condition, that I had something to be pleased about, yet equally quickly remembering it was a day's holiday, and that I had arranged to take the trip to Harwich and back in the "Lord of the Isles," the property of the Victoria Steamboat Company. The morning, though rather dull, gave us every reason to think we were going to have a glorious day, which afterwards proved to be correct. The punctuality with which this company start their boats would have made us believe that no one dare leave it "until the last minute." Yet *after* the removal of the gangway we watched with terror the "late arrivals" safely landed.

We "cast off," and left the Old Swan Pier at 9.30, anxiously awaiting the panorama that lay before us, and keenly watching for all the places of note. Passing under London Bridge there lay the great Billingsgate fish market on the left; then the Custom Houses. Now we are passing through the new Tower Bridge, in course of erection; then the Tower of London, with its grand old battlements and turrets. (Here imagination would bid me stay, but space will not permit.) Then Deptford, on the right, the great foreign cattle market and slaughter-house, from which London obtains its principal meat-food supply, adjoining which is Greenwich, with its magnificent Naval Hospital, its park, and its world-famed Observatory in the distance. Rounding the Isle of Dogs, we come to Woolwich, with its government arsenal depôt. Leaving Shooter's Hill on the right afar off, we pass the *Warspite*, and still a little farther on the *Chichester* and *Arethusa* training-ships, and all of them good specimens of the few remaining wooden walls of old England.

Now we reach pretty little Erith, with its old church and tiny houses snugly nestling in the hollow, surrounded by green fields and the ever-

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