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## EDITORIAL.

### CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

#### THE HUMANE SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

No woman with a strain of cruelty in her composition ever makes a good nurse—a fine mechanical instrument maybe—but never a great restorer—as women of instinctive sympathies may be. We have been a little disappointed as Editor of a Nursing Journal, noting day by day the reports of extreme cases of brutal cruelty to defenceless animals in the daily press—that our clientele—highly trained professional nurses in the abstract—have made no protest in our columns on this proof of depravity in the nation—and their detestation of such crimes.

Kindness to animals should be inculcated in every child, and their right to skilled care, humane treatment, proper food, and hygienic surroundings insisted upon by law. We find it is usually the animals exploited for the service and enrichment of man—which when old are cast on the scrap heap, such as that tireless and generous beast the horse, sold when used up for an old song. Then we have the sagacious house dog, often chained up for days in dirty surroundings, left without proper food, or sufficient water, or exercise, until they suffer from painful diseases.

Then we have the inhuman ruffian illtreating patient animals—cases recently reported make one physically sick. One demon knocks an eye out of a pit pony with a pit prop, another smashes a dog's leg with a knob stick; others, often cats, are stoned, half strangled, burnt, and buried alive, and starvation of horses, donkeys, cows and dogs are constantly reported; and punishment, a fine of a few shillings or pounds is no deterrent.

Kindness to animals used to be a national characteristic; now apparently we can no longer make this proud claim.

We have noticed in London's streets much cowardly indifference upon the part of the public to overloaded vehicles, drawn by skeleton horses, with bloated drivers added to the

load, and have on more than one occasion been subjected to mob abuse for inviting the interference of the police in protection of the ill-used beasts struggling to breast a rise of slippery ground. We have noticed nurses in uniform scuttling away from such scenes, evidently anxious to escape inconvenience.

Our nurses are very kindly women in the main. We desire, therefore, to enlist their help in the protection of animals from cruelty and indifference, and their support for the second reading of the Bill designed to promote the more humane slaughter of animals killed for food, which is to be moved in the House of Commons on April 27, and which the Duchess of Hamilton and Miss Lind-af-Hageby, on behalf of the Animal Defence Society, have submitted to the Cabinet Committee which is considering the question and the following recommendations:—

“That legislation should be introduced without delay by which the adoption of Clause 9B of the present Ministry of Health Bye-Laws by all local authorities should be enforced, and that its provisions should be made applicable to all persons who slaughter animals for food, whether in slaughter-houses or not. Such provision would include persons who slaughter pigs or sheep in villages.

“That the decision of which types of humane killers should be included under the definition of ‘a mechanically-operated instrument suitable and sufficient for the purpose’ should be taken by the Ministry of Health, after due investigation and trial, and that local authority should be under the obligation to see that instruments of the approved types, and no others, are used in the slaughter-houses within their districts.

“That adequate safeguards against breaches of the Act, such as permission for the police and inspectors or accredited societies for the protection of animals to enter slaughter-houses with powers to enforce the Act, should be provided.”

A postcard to your member of Parliament inviting support of the Bill will help. Please send it.

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