Dear Sir =

I am not able to endorse without modification either of these statements. In my mind, they proceed on false premises. Cruelty to the brute creation, is to my mind most important in view of its hardening effects on those who witness it.

I do not think it is necessary to prove that vivisection is necessary."

It need not even be "necessary" at all; but if it is helpful to the student or operator, then it should be allowed under proper restrictions. It should be permitted and restrictions substantially as follows:

1— Only responsible parties known to be engaged in scientific pursuits and giving proper guaranty for its due exercise should be allowed such privilege.

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2 – ~~It also~~ These should not be permitted to engage in vivisection in the presence of the immature or before a general audience.

3 – Such experiments should be conducted without unnecessary pain to the subjects of experimentation.

To compell etherization may be to destroy the value of an experiment.

I am always shy of restricting scientific liberty by appeal to popular sentiment. It is often dangerous, and has never yet been valuable. Having gotten out from the control of sodetherapy, superstition and ecclesiasticism, let us be careful about being dominated by mere pity organized into fanciful law.

You will pardon me, but I am afraid we are in danger of going too far in that direction without giving due regard

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to other things.

For instance, a noted surgeon once told me that, for many years, he had to steady himself for certain visceral operations for which he was noted by first operating on an animal. He could not trust his hand or his eye without that preparation.

I do not think it matters whether this was "necessary" or not: if it gave him confidence and made him a more effective and safer operator, it was right for him to do it. Of this no one but he was a proper judge.

With this explanation I should more nearly agree with the second than any of the other classifications of thought.

I should vigorously oppose however any restriction other than that of a well-guarded license.

Very respectfully

Albion W. Tourgee
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