

PETITION FOR AMENDMENT OF LORD CARNARVON'S BILL FOR "PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS".

*Unto the Right Honourable the Peers of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled, the humble
Petition of the Undersigned*

Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioners are of opinion that the Bill now before your Lordships, entitled "The Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876", will, if passed into law in its present shape, seriously impede the progress of research into the laws and functions of life in health and disease, will retard the advance of medicine, will prevent the complete and satisfactory instruction of students in important branches of knowledge necessary for their future efficiency as medical practitioners, and will thus be injurious to the cause of humanity.

That your Petitioners do therefore earnestly pray your Lordships to give favourable consideration to the Amendments of the said Bill, proposed by the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association, in a Report dated May, 1876, and to a like Report of the General Medical Council of Great Britain, of the like date, and especially pray that, if your Lordships pass the said Bill, you will make therein amendments, which will have the effect:—

- 1st. Of amending the title of the said Bill in such manner that it shall not seem to impute to physiologists and to teachers in medical schools a disposition to cruelty.
- 2nd. Of widening the limits of research by experiment, so as to include, as heretofore, all subjects of research which can conduce to new knowledge of facts or laws of life, or additions to medical and physiological knowledge.
- 3rd. Of permitting the practice of experiments of research in non-registered places by licensed persons under special certificate.
- 4th. Of omitting the limitation which the Bill imposes on the animals which may be subjects of experiment, and removing the exemption of cats and dogs, which Clause 5 proposes, seeing that the domestic flesh-eating animals are most necessary for many subjects of important inquiry.

Your Petitioners, in making these earnest requests, are animated by the sentiments of humanity which are prevalent throughout the nation, and which are especially dear to them, whose profession it is to pass their lives in the prevention and cure of suffering and disease.

Intimately acquainted with the nature and object of the studies which the Bill proposes to regulate, your Petitioners earnestly trust that you will amend, as they now pray, the provisions of this Bill, which threatens to arrest, if not to destroy, in this country, the pursuit and diffusion of a kind of knowledge most necessary for widening and strengthening the bases of medicine, and for multiplying and improving the means by which the laws of life may be more fully learned, the beginnings of disease more readily checked, the action of remedies more clearly perceived, and the art of healing rendered more certain and more beneficent.

NAME.	OCCUPATION OR DESIGNATION.	ADDRESS.

Please sign the above and procure as many signatures of Medical Men as possible, and return within four days.

To be torn out, stamped, and posted unsealed.]



MR. FRANCIS FOWKE,

36, GREAT QUEEN STREET,

LONDON, W.C.

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