

false impression that my charge that she had made a flat-footed proposal to "experiment on human beings" was not made until after her death when she could not reply. If Mrs. Lovell and Mr. Logan knew of her two replies, they concealed the truth from their readers. If they did not, they were lamentably ignorant of the literature relating to their own business and to the contents of their own journal. In either case, it is they who should make a retraction and offer me an apology for such a misrepresentation.

The outstanding feature of all antivivisection literature, as to medicine, is that they "know it all." My friends and I, who have diligently studied and taught and practised medicine for forty, fifty and sixty years, deplore our ignorance about many things as to which we long for more light. We wish by all possible means, including animal experimentation, to obtain this additional light. We do know enough, however, to say that Mrs. Lovell's oracular statements as to typhoid fever, yellow fever, smallpox, sanitation and the "stupendous folly of germ hunting" are utter nonsense.

"Yellow fever, like typhoid, is a filth disease. Remove the filth and you remove the cause," is one of her bold assertions.

This assertion is not true. They are two diseases, each caused by its own specific "germ" and by nothing else. The fact is, you may live in a filthy hovel and may develop other diseases, but you will not develop typhoid unless there are *typhoid germs* in the food you eat and drink. In the same filthy surroundings, you will *not* develop yellow fever unless there are infected mosquitoes to bite you.

On the contrary, you may live in Mrs. Lovell's own home, with spotless ultra-sanitary surroundings, but if you eat solid food over which have crawled flies with typhoid germs on their little feet, or drink water or milk which has no smell and which looks and tastes and appears to be entirely wholesome but which contain the "germs" of typhoid, you will fall a victim to typhoid. If, in similarly perfect surroundings, you are bitten by an infected mosquito, you will be attacked by yellow fever.

But Mrs. Lovell may say this is exactly the "filth" that she refers to. I grant it at once and point out that this filth is composed of the bacilli of typhoid fever. Mrs. Lovell, if she makes that statement, at once concedes my contention that typhoid fever is caused, not by filth *per se*, but by filth which contains the germs of typhoid.

The *Boston Journal* gave place in its issue of July 11, 1912, to a short letter from Mr. Stephen Coleridge, criticizing my address of 1912, and again, on July 25, 1912, it published Mrs. White's long letter. The editor then said: "It is only just that these two communications should appear in the *Journal*, since the cause of truth is never better served than by the free expression and fair hearing of diverse opinions about it."

As soon as I read Mrs. Lovell's attack upon me, I requested the editor of *The Starry Cross* to allow me equal space for a reply. He curtly "advised" me that "the columns of the *Starry Cross* are not open to articles favoring vivisection, or intended to asperse the memory of its founder."

As *The Starry Cross* refuses to let the light penetrate the minds of its readers, I am asking the courtesy of your columns as you believe that truth is best attained by hearing both sides.

Yours truly,  
W. W. KEEN.

#### RATES FOR DOCTORS' TELEPHONES.

173 School Street, Milton, Mass.

April 25, 1921.

Mr. Editor:—

In regard to the proposed increase of rates for physicians' use of the telephone by listing them under

business rates, I find that in my own instance this is going to make an increase of about 50%, which I assume is an average, and without material benefits accruing thereby to the Telephone Company. The argument that the names of doctors will be classified in the back of the directory under "physicians and surgeons," does not practically work out to the advantage of either the patient or doctor, as witnessed by a recent experience in which a patient called me to ask the name of a well known oculist, the spelling of whose name did not conform to the usual, at least in her mind, and she did not turn to the business directory for further information. Moreover, in the last few years, the change to smaller type and the multiplicity of names of those who are subscribers in the telephone directory, make the task of ferreting out names and numbers increasingly difficult, so that it occurs to me that we, as physicians, have much to gain if we allow our names to be published under the residence rates, and for the benefits of the people and ourselves get out a doctors' directory of our own which we can buy at cost and distribute to our patients according to our several communities.

Since this proposal of the Telephone Company is to cover all of its territory in New England, it might be of interest to our fraternity in other states than Massachusetts that their state medical societies, as ours, should take this matter up and serve their members and the patients who depend upon them, better than it is possible to be served under existing, or proposed, conditions by the N. E. Tel. & Tel. Co.

As directories are of passing interest, whether medical or telephone, it would need semi-yearly revision, or thereabouts, but enacted as a State Medical Society measure, it might well be done and receive the universal support of the medical practitioners at a great financial saving to themselves and to the real benefit of those who would find use for such a Directory. It is undoubtedly a fact that many subscribers have put in telephones that they might be able to call upon doctors in case of emergencies and for this single reason it seems to me unjust that this company should attempt to capitalize, at our expense, the assets that the medical profession has brought it.

Yours very truly,  
WALTER A. LANE, M.D.

#### IMPORT DUTIES ON TOOTH BRUSHES.

New York City, April 25, 1921.

Mr. Editor:—

The attention of the Oral Hygiene Committee of Greater New York has been called to the fact that in the new tariff bill is a clause which increases the duty on imported brushes. This includes imported tooth brushes.

Tooth brushes are essential in the maintenance of mouth hygiene, and mouth hygiene is closely related to health, therefore, any duty which increases the cost of tooth brushes will work a hardship upon a large class of our people. Parents of large families will find it difficult properly to provide their children with this necessary article of mouth cleanliness.

Our committee respectfully requests your cooperation. We ask your readers to send letters to their congressmen and senators, protesting against any increase of duty upon imported tooth brushes; and we earnestly request that tooth brushes be placed on the free list, as they are by no means luxuries, but articles of necessity for the health and welfare of the people.

Respectfully yours,  
THADDEUS P. HYATT, Chairman.