

PAINLESS SLAUGHTERING OF ANIMALS.

SOME thousands of dollars, we believe, have been spent by the Antivivisection Society of this city for the purpose of suppressing scientific cruelties which do not exist, and we sincerely trust that the humanitarians who, in this impracticable way, have found vent for their superfluous money and energy, may be induced to turn their forces into a more worthy channel.

We would call the attention of our readers to the accounts appearing in another column concerning the unnecessary brutality which accompanies the slaughtering of animals in Philadelphia.

The committee appointed by the President of the College of Physicians is charged with the duty of

endeavoring to secure the introduction of more humane methods into slaughter houses, and is composed of well-known vivisectionists. If they succeed in bringing about the proper reform, they will have done more for the relief of animal suffering than the host of antivivisectionists who have been clamoring for these many years.

There is one aspect of the matter which is of direct practical importance to the meat-eaters of Philadelphia, namely, the apparent total lack of any supervision as to the quality of the meat which is served upon the private tables, and perhaps more freely in boarding-houses. It is doubtful as to how far it is really injurious to eat diseased meat which is thoroughly cooked. We remember once hearing Prof. Leidy, in a lecture, state that on a certain day after dining feely upon an unfortunate chicken, he called the cook and asked her why she had not sent in the liver, which tidbit he had in vain diligently searched for. The heroine of the kitchen replied, "the liver looked so queer I did not like to cook it." The Doctor then sent for it, and, taking it into his study, soon found that it was in the last stage of cancerous degeneration. Although the danger of physical ills may not be great from such ingesta when well cooked, sentiment is opposed to dining upon the products of disease. It must also be remembered that the poorest quality of beef is usually made into sausages, and that many of these so-called bolognas are eaten raw, or only partially cooked. If there be any truth whatever in the doctrines of Koch and his followers, feeding upon half-cooked bacilli cannot be conducive to the most robust health.

