

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1896.

THE ADVANCEMENT OF MEDICINE BY RESEARCH.*

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MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY:

The recent attempt by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to secure legislation for the restriction of biological research in Massachusetts, and the probability that the attempt will be repeated during the next session of the Legislature, may serve as my excuse for asking you to consider the history and significance of the movement, the inevitable result of its success, as well as the moral principles which here find their application.

That the Legislature of Massachusetts should be requested to restrict the right of physicians to study their profession, and of the higher educational institutions of the State to teach the sciences on which the practice of medicine rests, is a phenomenon which surprises no one who has watched the progress of the so-called 'anti-vivisection' agitation during the last quarter of a century. At various times within this period have the efforts of misguided benevolence been directed to checking the progress of medical science by interfering with one of the most important methods by which advances can be made. Fortunately for humanity, these efforts have, in nearly all

*The annual discourse, delivered June 10, 1896, by the President before the Massachusetts Medical Society.

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