

THAT the treatment is, therefore, atropine to dilate them.

THAT, if we overheard rightly, this can be given either subcutaneously or hypodermically.

THAT the Medical Faculty has again carried off the honours in the Inter-Faculty Athletic Sports.

THAT they also won the first Interfaculty Boat race.

THAT when better athletes are made the Medical School will produce them.

THAT there were some good stories told at the Medical dinner.

THAT for some unaccountable reason most people seem to have a very hazy recollection of them.

THAT a final year student was addressed as " Sonny " by a lecturer.

THAT there is no truth in the statement that the student reciprocated by calling the lecturer " Uncle Dicky."

THAT we wish to register our intense disapproval of the statement that the Transverse Incision is the result of practicing at the Government Mortuary and the General Hospital at the same time.

THAT a new development in surgery is the " Stealing of the Prostate "—from the urologist.

THAT a surgeon showed a case of gall stone ileus at a recent meeting of the Association with the air of a conjurer producing a rabbit out of a hat.

THAT in the discussion which followed it transpired that he was not the discoverer of gall stone ileus.

THAT " The Cathartic " died a malodorous death.

THAT we hope its successor, " The Inyana " will give pornography a wide berth.

A WORD ABOUT THE FROG

Among the major problems in modern Physiology, the question, " Is the frog a suitable subject for experimental study?" is, in my opinion, one of the most pressing. No one, who has ever seen a frog, can doubt that aesthetically it is a failure; and the question may well be raised: is not the use of so ill-conditioned a creature a vital factor in that decline in the dignity of Physiology which has become so noticeable to-day?

In the good old times, the times, it may be added, of a more rigid cultural code, no experimenter would consider employing so insignificant an animal as the frog; in fact, I am sure that any observations recorded on it would have been received with ridicule. These earlier physiologists may have been imperfect observers, but they had a nice conception of the status of their calling. In fact, when all other means of argument failed, I am not at all sure

that they did not make the size and structural complexity of the animal they worked with the deciding factor. For example, a little disagreement between Galen and one of his contemporaries may conceivably have been reported somewhat as follows, in the current Scientific Journal of the time:

" At the last meeting of the Medical Society of Rome, Dr. Servetus challenged Professor Galen's statement, that the fuliginous vapours from the arteries originated from the heart. He himself, working on the horse, had found the opposite to be the case; and he held, that as the horse was both a nobler and larger creature than the dog, the conditions existing in its body were more likely to reflect the universal truth. On being asked for his opinion, Professor Galen, with a quiet smile, replied that only the day before he had vivisected an elephant, and had found the opinion he previously

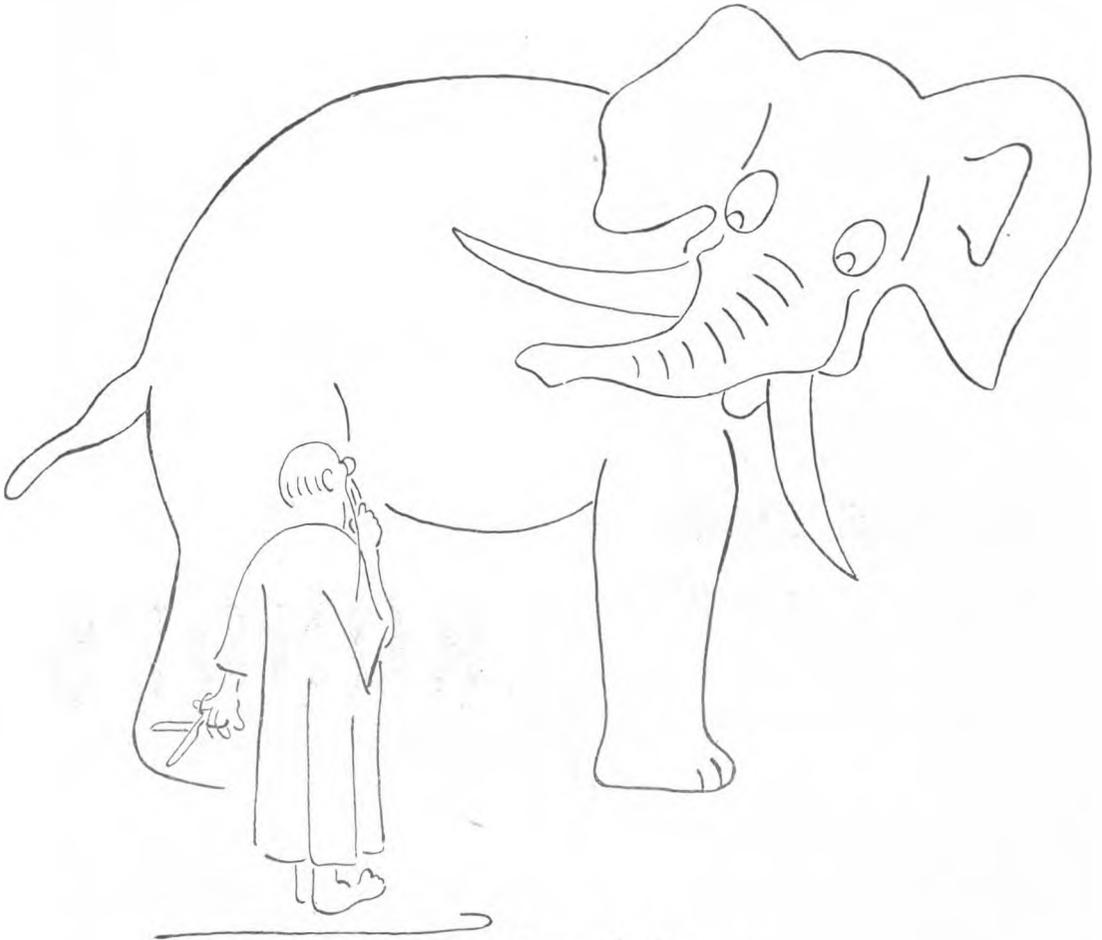
held to be the correct one. At this, Dr. Servetus, with extreme magnanimity, exclaimed, 'I hand it to you, Galey,' and the matter was thereafter allowed to drop."

But even if modern physiologists can clear themselves of a charge of moral turpitude, we may still ask: is it possible to place any reliance on the results of experiments on the frog? The answer, I maintain, is in the negative; and I state this because, after an extensive experience of its eccentricities, I have come to the conclusion that the frog is physiologically unique. For example, it is, as any second year Medical student will tell you, practically impossible to kill a frog. Many a time have I seen an exasperated student, who for an hour has been fruitlessly probing its spinal cord with a needle, seize a frog by the leg, hurl it on to

the ground, hit it over the head with the myograph stand, and stand on it with both feet; the creature always gets up again briskly, and leers at him. Or again, I have myself more than once been engaged on a delicate operation, such as tying a second Stannius' ligature, when the frog has got up and walked away, thus displaying a painful lack of that decorum which one would expect in a creature assisting in an interesting scientific experiment.

Enough has now been said, I think, to indicate the essential shortcomings of the frog. Let us, then, call for the abolition of this animal from all laboratories, and the substitution of some other better qualified, physically and morally, to bring home physiological truths to immature minds.

H. S. O.



. . . vivisected an elephant . .