

HIT 'DOCTOR TRUST' IN VIVISECTION ROW

Assails Physician in Hot Statement

Antis Claim "Iron Hand" Was Behind Wells's Re- fusal to Make Address.

In a sensational statement issued last night through a publicity agent, the New England Anti-Vivisection Society charges that Dr. Edwin H. Wells of Tufts College, on his own admission, declined to address the convention now in progress at Tremont Temple because he feared the displeasure of the American Medical Society.

"The iron hand of the Doctor Trust is back of the action of Dr. Wells," is the way the statement of the anti-vivisectionists puts the matter.

"The New England Anti-Vivisection Society is apparently attempting to involve some reputable man in a controversy," is Dr. Wells's answer. "Evidently they believe they can do this by carrying things with a high hand. The admission they attribute to me is absurd and untrue. They use a thread of truth as the basis of a mass of falsehood."

The statement of the anti-vivisectionists deals with the refusal of Dr. Wells to deliver an address before the meeting to be held tonight after he had consented to consider the matter. It is based on what purports to be a conversation between Dr. Wells and Mrs. Jessica L. C. Henderson, secretary of the society, and reads in part as follows.

Statement by Society.

"Dr. Wells, according to Mrs. Henderson, frankly admitted to her that his sole reason for not keeping his engagement and making the address as proposed was that the American Medical Association absolutely controls such matters and that he could not deliver the address without incurring the displeasure of those in control of the American Medical Association.

"When discussing the matter and in maintaining her original position yesterday, Mrs. Henderson said:

"In the presence of five witnesses, on Tuesday, Dr. Wells said to me: 'Dr. Leachman is willing. I would be very glad to talk for you and to say just what I think about vivisection.'"

"A definite arrangement was made that I should call Dr. Wells on the telephone at his home in Wakefield at precisely 8 o'clock this morning to get



MRS. JESSICA L. C. HENDERSON

Mrs. Jessica L. C. Henderson.

his final answer. I did call him at the time and place agreed upon and he said to me 'I will be unable to talk before the Anti-Vivisection Society because I have learned mine talking with you, that Dr. Cannon of Harvard College has been chosen by the American Medical Association to discuss the matter of vivisection anywhere in the country at the expense of the association.'

"I told Dr. Wells I was disappointed and he replied: 'So am I, but under the circumstances I could not talk for your society.'"

Dr. Wells is an assistant instructor in physiology at Tufts Medical School. The statement was read to him by a Journal reporter last night. This was his comment:

Dr. Wells Talks.

"I do not care to become mixed up in any controversy, nor will I. The statement of the society must rest upon it. I cannot conceive of a reputable society first taking a conversation that was private and then distorting it and endeavoring to make of it a matter for controversy.

"On Tuesday I went to Tremont Temple and saw the exhibit which is a part of the convention. I was approached while there and asked if I would deliver an address before the convention. I refused absolutely at the time. I was urged to take the matter under consideration. I finally did so.

"This morning I was called up, as had been agreed, by Mrs. Henderson. I told her I had decided I did not care to address the convention. I did this for largely the same reasons that Dr. Cabot refused, and these were printed in this

morning's Journal. I pointed out at the same time that the American Medical Association had selected Dr. Cannon to discuss the matter of vivisection anywhere in the country. There is a matter of professional etiquette involved in a case of this kind, which I supposed Mrs. Henderson would understand.

"The upshot of our telephone conversation was my refusal. I had thought this closed the matter."