### Statement on the Question of Vivisection

A statement on the question of vivisection was published last week by a committee of prominent scientists, medical men, and biologists, including President Walker, President Eliot, Professor Weir Mitchell, Professor Sedgwick, Doctors Ernst and Minot, and thirty others. It sets forth very strongly the services rendered to medicine by vivisections, and quotes particularly the development of the germ theory of disease and certain methods of treating abnormal pressure of the blood. The necessity of actual illustrations in the teaching of science is touched upon, and the ill-judged excesses of so-called humanitarians deplored.

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The opponents of vivisection about Boston have indeed resorted to very questionable methods. A paper has been circulated, headed as follows: “Vote for or against Vivisection. Please indicate your convictions and opinions respecting the subjoined propositions by making an X against each in the ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ column. Should unrestrained vivisection be permitted? Should painful vivisection be prohibited? Should all vivisection be prohibited?” A person, however, wishing to vote “No” to all these questions is not allowed to mark the paper at all. Aside from the impropriety of making any public appeal whatever on a scientific question, this is a singular way of obtaining an opinion “for or against.” A hearing on the subject of restriction of Vivisection, at which the Institute is represented, is now in progress at the State House, and it is to be hoped that what the scientific circular calls “one of the least wise of the agitations which beset modern society” will be somewhat checked.

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The first call for this year’s Track Team will shortly be made, and the men will commence to train at the Gym. Owing to the fact that some of our best athletes left college last June, it will be readily seen that the captain has a hard task before him, that of moulding a championship team out of new material. But this can be done if he receives the hearty support of all Tech men who believe that the Intercollegiate Meet should be won by M. I. T. this spring.

Two years ago a most glorious victory was gained, and we have since won several team races from other colleges. The team of this year, with such an excellent record behind it, must not suffer defeat at Worcester. Let the