

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—I do not wish to discuss the views expressed by Miss Cobbe in the letter which appeared in *The Times* of the 19th inst.; but as she asserts that I have “misinformed” my correspondent in Sweden in saying that “the investigation of the matter by a Royal Commission proved that the accusations made against our English physiologists were false,” I will merely ask leave to refer to some other sentences from the report of the Commission.

(1) The sentence—“It is not to be doubted that inhumanity may be found in persons of very high position as physiologists,” which Miss Cobbe quotes from page 17 of the report, and which, in her opinion, “can necessarily concern English physiologists alone and not foreigners,” is immediately followed by the words “We have seen that it was so in Majendie.” Majendie was a French physiologist who became notorious some half-century ago for his cruel experiments on living animals.

(2) The Commissioners, after speaking of the “general sentiment of humanity” prevailing in this country, say (p. 10):—

“This principle is accepted generally by the very highly educated men whose lives are devoted either to scientific investigation and education or to the mitigation or the removal of the sufferings of their fellow-creatures; though differences of degree in regard to its practical application will be easily discernible by those who study the evidence as it has been laid before us.”

Again, according to the Commissioners (p. 10):—

“The secretary of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, when asked whether the general tendency of the scientific world in this country is at variance with humanity, says he believes it to be very different, indeed, from that of foreign physiologists; and while giving it as the opinion of the society that experiments are performed which are in their nature beyond any legitimate province of science, and that the pain which they inflict is pain which it is not justifiable to inflict even for the scientific object in view, he readily acknowledges that he does not know a single case of wanton cruelty, and that in general the English physiologists have used anæsthetics where they think they can do so with safety to the experiment.”

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

April 21.

CHARLES DARWIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—With reference to Mr. Darwin's letter in *The Times* of yesterday, I would ask your permission to quote the following brief, but impressive extract from Darwin's “Descent of Man” :—

“Every one has heard of the dog suffering under vivisection who licked the hand of the operator; this man, unless he had a heart of stone, must have felt remorse to the last hour of his life.”

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, T. W. MOFFETT.

Queen's College, Galway, April 19.