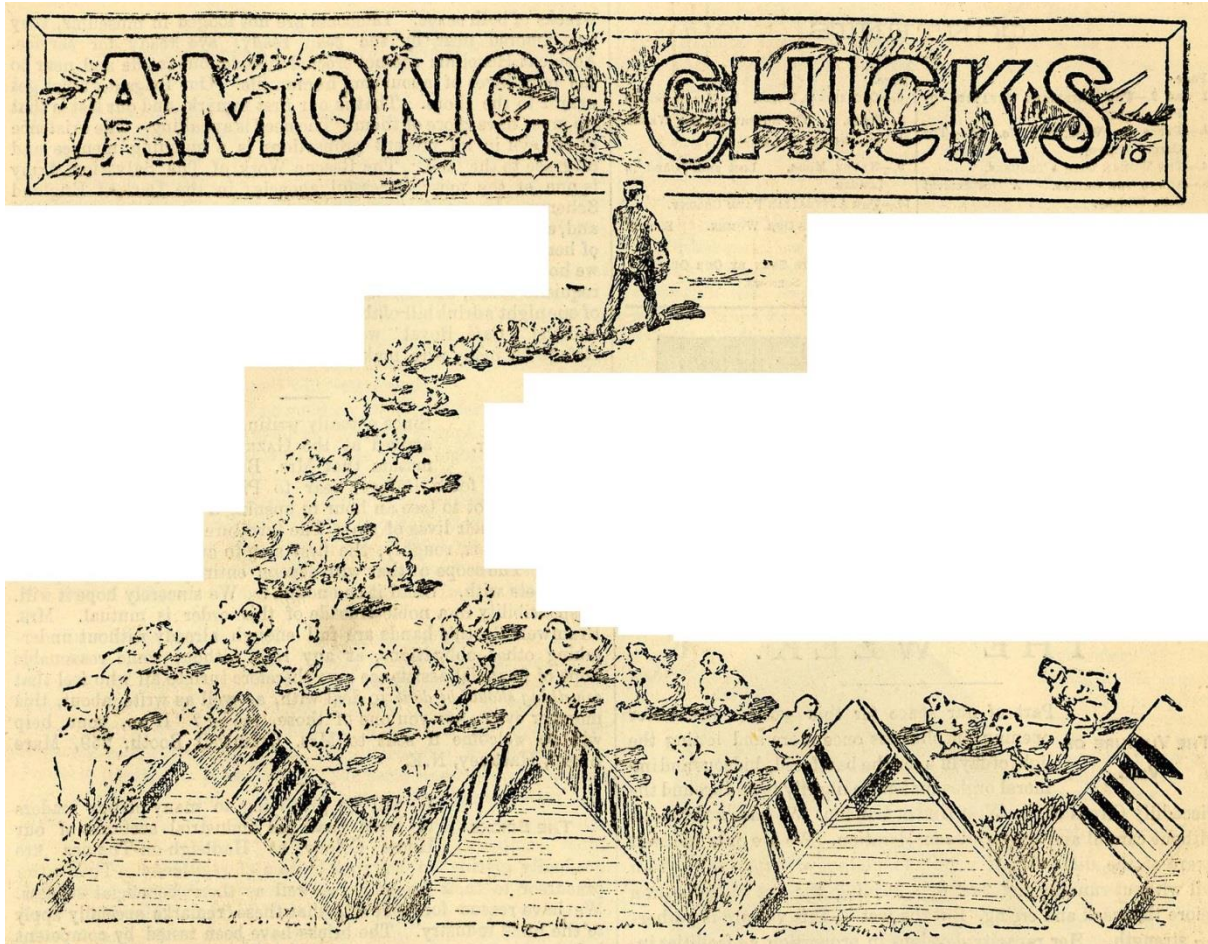




Salvation Army International Heritage Centre

Darkest England Gazette Research Guide

Animal welfare



Animal welfare was a general interest of The Salvation Army in the late nineteenth century. For instance, the conditions of working animals such as horses and dogs featured in miscellaneous reportage in the *Darkest England Gazette* and the Army's official Orders and Regulations encouraged officers to consider a vegetarian diet.

The *Gazette's* interest in the fraught contemporary question of vivisection, however, was driven by a campaigner from outside The Salvation Army. 'Vivisection' refers to the performance of surgical operations on animals while they are still alive, not as a medical intervention to cure the animal, but for purposes of scientific experimentation. This was done primarily by medical scientists who experimented on animals to search for ways of curing medical conditions in humans. Edith Carrington (1853–1929), a prominent animal rights activist, anti-vivisectionist, and

promoter of vegetarianism, began the debate on vivisection in the *Gazette* with a set of articles entitled 'Christ and Vivisection' in **issues 41 and 49**.

Addressing the question of vivisection in **issue 41** of the *Gazette*, Carrington deliberately cast it in a Christian religious light, calling experimentation on live animals a 'breach of the Divine law'. She warned readers against believing scientists' claim that these experiments were necessary to find ways of improving human health, stating:

Of all the different disguises from beneath which Satan seeks to tempt souls away from Christ, perhaps there is none more deceitful than a sort of false science, or the desire to know, at any cost, the mysteries which God has hidden from the eyes of men.



Portrait of Edith Carrington, from *Animals' Friend*, August 1894 (Wikimedia Commons)

She followed up this initial article with exposés of experimentation on dogs in laboratories, including Louis Pasteur's attempts to develop a cure for rabies in **issue 43** and a set of articles entitled 'Vivisection and Torture' in **issues 45 and 46**. Responding to a correspondent to the *Gazette*, she explained in **issue 44** that the RSPCA could not prevent vivisection unless its efforts were supported by legislative change. She also repeatedly suggested that permitting vivisection on animals created a slippery slope towards allowing medical experimentation on humans: this theme from her initial article resurfaced in a letter to the editor of the *Gazette* in **issue 50**.

**The Salvation Army International Heritage Centre,
July 2019**

Accessing the *Darkest England Gazette*:

The Salvation Army International Heritage Centre is currently working to digitise the *Darkest England Gazette* as a fully open access online resource. While we complete the digitisation process, we are able to offer sample scans of some issues and articles as part of our [Digital Collections](#).

If you would like to see an issue or article that is not currently available on the [Darkest England Gazette page](#), please feel free to [contact the Heritage Centre](#) for help. We may be able to send you a scan of the relevant pages, or you would be very welcome to visit our Reading Room in person to view the *Gazette* for yourself.

