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Rallying Cry for Truly Logical Animal Lover

DR. MICHAEL O'DONNELL

On attending a recent animal-protection rally, I noticed that a great deal was said about outrages against the nobler and cuddlier animals but nothing at all about the daily slaughter of many millions of microorganisms. I have therefore composed an anthem which I hope will prove a rallying cry for the truly logical animal lover. Here it is:

*Why must we be cruel to bacteria?
It's time we rallied round and raised a ruction
It really ought to shock us
That we kill the staphylococcus
By inhibiting its powers of reproduction
Why should we think bacteria
In any way inferior
Because they're small and singularly plain?
And are we sure a bite
From a hungry leukocyte
Doesn't cause unnecessary pain?
Must we be cruel to bacteria?
We're solicitous to spiders and to worms
We grow dotty over dogs
And quite protective over frogs
Yet we all are so beastly to the germs.*

*Why must we be cruel to bacteria?
For kindness always helps to clear the air
And perhaps the salmonella
Is a friendly little fella
Who is longing for a little loving care
Each small bacterium
Has a loving dad and mum
And a virus
Should inspire us
Like a son
Yet the poor old spirochete
Who only wants to live and eat
Is murdered 'cause he complicates our fun
There's no need to be cruel to bacteria
Let's realize a germ must have its place
So next time when you're ill
Throw away that cruel pill
And die with a smile upon your face.*

