

reduce even good milk from a first-class food to one of mere subsidiary value necessitating a variety of specially prepared adjuncts wherewith to try and deceive Nature.

It is as long ago as April and July, 1906, that I was allowed in the *British Medical Journal* to point out the great value of the lime salts for human beings. Fortunately a few of my colleagues had hearing ears, and my only regret is that I did not then point out their importance for animal health as well.—I am, etc.,

Swansea, March 27.

G. ARBOUR STEPHENS.

Compulsory Pasteurization of Milk

SIR,—While naturally agreeing with Dr. C. Fraser Brockington that compulsory pasteurization is imperative, may I be permitted to ask about cream, butter, and cheese. I understand that these products of milk simply teem with microbes of all kinds, and I presume that eating them is just as harmful as drinking. Does Dr. Brockington propose that no butter or cheese should be made except out of pasteurized milk, and if so, can he tell us whether this is practicable?—I am, etc.,

Stoke-on-Trent, April 3. PAUL BERNARD ROTH, F.R.C.S.

Combined Universities Election

SIR,—I am constrained to endorse the sentiments so well expressed by Dr. Manson in your issue of April 3 relating to the appalling apathy of medical graduates who omitted to take advantage of such an excellent opportunity of returning Sir Henry Brackenbury in the recent contest. As one of the representatives present at the Annual Representative Meeting in Oxford last July, I well remember heartily concurring with the expressed need for adequate representation in Parliament, and the desirability of securing someone who would be able to speak with authority on medico-political matters. There is surely no more able, efficient, and well-equipped candidate in the profession for this purpose than Sir Henry, and when one realizes the prodigious energy, devotion, and enthusiasm with which he has served the profession for so many years the epithet of Dr. Manson applied to his colleagues, "shallow-pated amnesia," is more than justified.

It is much to be deplored that blind loyalty to party politics should have resulted in the loss to the House of Commons of such a distinguished leader of the profession, particularly at this critical juncture, when the legislature is in such need of strengthening with men of experience and practical knowledge of our public health services and administration. What is the use of grousing, and then failing to seize opportunities of redress?—I am, etc.,

Bournemouth, March 4.

WALTER ASTEN.

Why "Nocifensor"?

SIR,—I hope I shall be forgiven for butting into an argument which is really none of my business; nor would I presume to take the word for Sir Thomas Lewis, who is obviously quite capable of defending his nocifensor system of nerves with his superior Latin erudition. But I fear that all of us who have learnt the Latin of the ancient Romans must blush for them, since they ignored the rules which Dr. F. J. Allen's classical scholars have established for their language. The fact remains that *noceo* turns into *nocivus*; *prohibeo* into *prohibitio*; *medeor*, belonging to the same group, into *medicabilis* and *medicatio*; and even the "monument" of Dr. Allen begins to shake when we find in brackets in some of the larger handbooks the spelling of "monimentum" out of *moneo*. The examples can be multiplied by anybody who cares to turn the pages of a Latin

dictionary. I trust a man of Dr. Allen's learning will not take amiss this little attempt to rescue the pleasanter word for our tongues.—I am, etc.,

London, W.1, March 31.

LUCIFER.

Radiograph or Skiagram

SIR,—I am disappointed to learn of the objections which can be stated against the word "skiagram" as detailed by Dr. R. Boulton Myles (*Journal*, April 3, p. 731); and I am indeed sorry that he finds "it has no case." Of course this is simply a matter of opinion, but what appeals to me about the word "skiagram" is that it suggests—remotely at least—the real nature of an "x-ray photograph"—namely, that it is a "shadow-picture." And to this extent and for this reason it seems to me to have more meaning and to be a more expressive word than its rival "radiograph," which faced the starter in its company in those murky days of 1896.

If this argument appears to Mr. Boulton Myles to be merely trifling or whimsical there is nothing more that I can add, but must leave the matter to the judgement of subtler minds and tastes than my own.—I am, etc.,

Broadstairs, April 5.

R. S. LAWSON.

The Services

AUXILIARY R.A.M.C. FUNDS

The annual meeting of the members of the Auxiliary R.A.M.C. Funds will be held at 5.15 p.m. on Friday, April 23, at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., when the annual report and financial statement for the year ended December 31, 1936, will be presented and the officers and committee for the current year elected.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Lieut.-Colonel ROBERT GALE, D.S.O., R.A.M.C. (ret.), died at Southsea on March 14, aged 49. He was born on August 16, 1887, and was educated at Glasgow University, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1909. Entering the R.A.M.C. as lieutenant on July 31, 1909, he got a brevet majority on June 3, 1919, became lieutenant-colonel on May 1, 1934, and was placed on temporary half-pay on account of ill-health on March 20, 1936, retiring very shortly afterwards. In 1913-14 he was on special duty in Egypt, which he left to serve in the war of 1914-18, when he was mentioned in dispatches in the *London Gazette* of June 29, 1915, and January 1, 1916, and received the D.S.O.

Colonel FERBERD RICHARD BUSWELL, C.M.G., late R.A.M.C. (ret.), died in Kensington on March 13, aged 72. He was born at Brixton on November 3, 1864, was educated at the Middlesex Hospital, and took the M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P.Lond. in 1887. After filling the posts of house-surgeon and house-physician at his hospital he entered the Army as surgeon lieutenant on January 30, 1893, became colonel on December 20, 1917, and retired on March 20, 1920. He served in the China War in 1900, gaining the medal; and in the war of 1914-18, when he was mentioned in dispatches three times—in the *London Gazette* of June 23, 1916, January 4, 1917, and December 24, 1917—and received the C.M.G. in 1917.

Colonel PHILIP JAMES LUMSDEN, Bengal Medical Service (ret.), died at Fleet, Hants, on February 27, aged 73. He was born on February 2, 1864, at Gorakhpur, where his father was then magistrate, and was educated at Aberdeen, where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1886. Entering the I.M.S. as surgeon on September 29, 1888, he attained the rank of colonel on October 15, 1918, and retired on November 27, 1920. Most of his service was spent in the political department, where he was agency surgeon for the States of Kotah and Jalhwar, and subsequently agency surgeon and administrative medical officer in Baluchistan. He served on the North-West Frontier of India in the Miranzai first expedition of 1891, and also during the war of 1914-18, when he was mentioned in dispatches in the *London Gazette* of June 26, 1916. His younger brother, J. S. S. Lumsden, entered the Bengal Service in 1891 and died in 1906.