Calium Panthothenate and Burns

Sir,—In view of the interesting correspondence precipitated in the columns of your Journal by the report of Dr. A. E. Milne et al. (July 14, p. 117) on the use of antihista-
mines in the treatment of burns, including that of Dr. S. B. Stoker on local hepatic therapy in neutralizing the products of burns (August 11, p. 360), we would like to add our experimental findings on another substance which in this case we found effective in significantly reducing mortality due to burns. Calcium panthothenate, when dissolved in physiological saline and administered intraperitoneally in doses of 100 mg./kg. body weight before a lethal burn shock, immediately lowered the rate of the body surface exposed to water at 70° C. for 15 seconds, increases the survival rate in rats as compared to controls receiving an equal volume of physiological saline solution. Statistical treatment of the number of animals surviving at 12, 24, 48, and 72 hours after the standardized burn indicated that at the 1% probability level calcium pantothenate/saline solution had a significantly greater protective action than saline alone. With equivalent doses of methionine dissolved in saline and given 1½ hours before the burn, the effect was the same as with saline alone, although Hanz and Treadwell, using the technique we adopted, reported a significant effect at higher doses of methionine (Proc. Soc. exp. Biol. N.Y., 1948, 68, 684).

The exact mechanism of action has not as yet been determined, nor is it known whether the effect is specific for this vitamin. It may be that in the extensive metabolic changes of burn shock the coenzyme A concentration of certain tissues becomes critical, thus increasing the requirement of panto-
thenic acid for binding into the cofactor. It would be of some interest to study clinically the effect of this substance in burn therapy.—We are, etc.,

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Obituary

Dr. Edward Siddall Jackson, of Carnforth, Lancs, died suddenly on September 13. His death brought to an end over 100 years of medical practice in the same town by his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. The younger son of the late Dr. E. S. Jackson, he was born in 1892, and educated at George Watson's College and Edinburgh University, at which he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1921. His medical work was interrupted by service in the R.F.A. from 1914 to 1918. He then joined his father in practice, and remained in Carnforth until his death. He was essentially a family doctor. Having been born and brought up among his patients, he knew them, their parents, and their grand-
parents, and, later, their children and grandchildren. It was natural that he was esteemed as a friend as well as a doctor, and his cheerful disposition, kindly nature, and love of duty, was an active force in his community. He was a man of great kindness and charity. He always gave freely of his time and money. He served as a medical officer in Liverpool Prison and later at Holloway Prison until 1910. He was then appointed deputy medical superintendent at Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum. During the first world war he served as a captain in the R.A.M.C. with the late Sir John Baker, the medical super-
intendent, in charge of the insane German prisoners of war, who were taken in a special block of the asylum. He became medical superintendent at Broadmoor in 1926 and retired in 1937. He then went to live at Yateley, in Hampshire, but during the last years of his life he lived in London. Foulerton made the care and treatment of the ciminal lunatic his main life's work, and was peculiarly fitted for this difficult, exacting, and not infrequently danger-
ous task, meeting sudden emergencies with calm and un-
ruffled precision. His prolonged experience made him a valuable colleague as one of the members appointed by the Home* Secretary to hold a medical inquiry under Section 2 (4) of the Criminal Lunatics Act, 1884, and he approached the day-to-day problems with the reflection that many of his patients might never be fitted to return to life in the outer world. So far as possible, therefore, he endeavoured to fit each patient into the most appropri-
ate and comfortable place in the institution which could be safely given him. Foulerton was well suited to country life and obtained much satisfaction in his appointment. He had two sons by his first wife. The sympathy of his former colleagues and contemporaries will go out to them and his second wife, the daughter of the late Major General and the Hon. Mrs. Mitford, and her son.—W. N. E.

Dr. Alan McKinstry Fleming died suddenly from a coronary thrombosis at his home in Nairobi, Kenya, on October 17, at the age of 56. He was educated at the University College School, London. Having enlisted in the