

more food than carbonic acid," "nauseant or emetic," "food in the same way as castor-oil," and as "a compound begotten by resolving fats through heat." When the chief ingredients of butterine are remembered, namely, the more fusible portion of animal fat, vegetable oil, a little strongly flavoured butter or churned milk, salt, water, and annatto or other harmless colouring matter, it is difficult to understand the ground on which Dr. Roche bases his sweeping denunciation. But perhaps Dr. Roche did not remember the ingredients.

#### HEALTH OF THE WILD WEST.

Messrs. J. B. W. Bidlack, M.D. Phil., U.S.A., Medical Director of the American Exhibition, and R. J. Maitland Coffin, F.R.C.P. Ed., Medical Officer in charge of the Wild West Camp, write: A rumour has been spread by some malicious person or persons that there is an outbreak of scarlet fever in the camp. We beg to state that, with the exception of accidents, and one case of pneumonia (since recovered), there has been no case of illness, and the camp is and has been in a perfectly healthy condition. It is open at all times to the inspection of the medical officer of health for the district.

#### THE IRISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

Dr. Thomas Laffan writes: The annual meeting of the above body was held the other day, and, though I previously invited the Secretary, Dr. Chapman, to refer to the various matters of interest to provincials which I have ventilated in the medical press during the year, yet no reference whatever was made in their report to them. I trust (D. V.) to be able to attend the annual meeting of that body next year, and I will then and there raise the question of grievances which it is the interest of the metropolitan knot who at present pull all the wires in that Association to stifle. I was very much struck the other day with a remark of Montaigne, to the effect that the father who gives his art to his children has left them a fortune. Now this is what the physicians and surgeons of former generations were able to do, and what numbers of nearly every calling of the present day (our own excepted) can do. Metropolitan folk, by abolishing apprenticeship, have contrived to make us an exception to every other class in the community. It now costs us as much to induct our sons into the profession as if their fathers were the veriest strangers to it. I hope that the approaching meeting in Dublin will witness the establishment in Ireland of a branch of the English General Practitioners' Association.

The mouse which the Committee of the General Medical Council on the practical element in medical training brought forth as the result of the labours of the mountain is an insult to common sense and to the whole of us, and the public have a right to ask for a strict account of the part taken on that occasion by each of its elected representatives.

#### MILK STANDARDS.

Mr. Alfred H. Allen, F.I.C., F.C.S., President of the Society of Public Analysts, writes: In your report of the visit recently paid by the medical officers of health and public analysts to the farm of the Aylesbury Dairy Company, at Horsham, the reporter makes me state that "the Parliamentary standard of milk was fixed as low as 11½ per cent. of solids, and that "the standard ought not to be degraded as it was by Parliament to the lowest milk furnished by a poor cow." What I did say, or meant to say, was that the Aylesbury Dairy Company's milk averaged 13 per cent. of solids (not 30 per cent., as reported in the *Times*); and I compared this perfectly attainable quality of milk with that occasionally met with, the existence of which had compelled public analysts to adopt the number 11.5 per cent. as the minimum allowable limit of solids in genuine milk, and took the occasion to point out that this number was strictly a limit, and not the public analysts' standard of quality, as has often been erroneously asserted. Unfortunately the natural variation in the quality of milk is sufficient to prevent action being taken by public analysts in many instances in which there is good reason to believe that a moderate quantity of water has been added, and I think the public of London are indebted to the Aylesbury Company for bringing within their reach new milk of the uniformly good quality represented by 13 per cent. of solids. Much of their success is doubtless due to the systematic management and scientific feeding of the large number of cows on their farm, but they have also found it perfectly practicable to obtain a uniformly good quality of milk all the year round from those farms from which they simply purchase, and which are not directly under their control.

#### COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from:

Dr. Main, Newbury; Dr. C. Orton, Newcastle-under-Lyne; Sir Walter Foster, M.P., Birmingham; Mr. B. Jones, Leigh; Dr. E. Willett, London; Dr. T. Partridge, Stroud; Mr. R. M. Bond, Aldershot; Dr. Norman Kerr, London; Dr. Spencer, Wexford; Mr. R. B. Rawlings, London; Dr. Ward Cousins, Southsea; Mr. G. F. Masterman, Stourport; Dr. G. P. Rugg, London; Dr. W. J. Beatty, Stockton-on-Tees; The Secretary of the Glasgow Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, Glasgow; Mr. A. W. Hughes, Flint; Dr. Woodham Webb, Neuilly-sur-Seine; Dr. Jepson, Stone, near Dartford; Dr. A. Campbell, Bolden; Mr. W. J. Cameron, Carlisle; Deputy-Surgeon W. J. Fyfe, Clifton; Mr. W. L'Heureux Blenkarne, Leicester; Dr. C. E. Beevor, London; Dr. T. Jones, Eastbourne; Dr. Stevenson, London; Mr. F. E. Lee Strathy, Harborne, Birmingham; Mr. H. R. Gately, Ayton; Mr. M. Suchorowski, London; Mr. H. E. Brodick, Bury St. Edmunds; Dr. M. M. Basil, Manchester; Dr. J. M. Lindsay, Mickleover; Dr. Atcock, H.M.S. *Nelson*, Sydney; Dr. Macgregor, Wellington, N.Z.; Dr. I. Burney Yeo, London; Mr. J. H. Targett, M.B., London; Dr. W. Hunter, Edinburgh; Dr. C. M. Campbell, London; Mr. W. M. Young, Liverpool; Dr. McCall Anderson, Glasgow; Dr. A. Mantle, Stanley; Mr. J. W. Harrison, Sheffield; Mr. A. N. Griffiths, Fenton; Messrs. C. Griffin and Co., London; Dr. S. Martin, London; Dr. Thin, London; Dr. H. E. Dixey, Great Malvern; Dr. F. W. Smith, Leamington; Mr. O. Gagey, Castries, St. Lucia; Mr. G. Stillington Johnson, London; Mr. W. T. Mould, London; Mr. G. F. Da Costa, Kingston, Jamaica; Mr. A. T. Norton, London; Mr. W. G. Bigger, M.B., London; Mr. P. S. Spokes, London; Mr. J. B. Grecock, Pershore; Mr. J. Brindley James, London; Dr. Robert Barnes, London; Dr. Mayer, Antwerp; Mr. Adams Frost, London; Mr. C. Roberts, London;

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The General Secretary of the British Medical Association acknowledges the receipt of seven Essays on the Pathology and Treatment of Abortion, with the mottoes: "A useless life is only an early death," "Ad referendum," "Why wait," "Honi soit qui mal y pense," "Ne quid nimis," "Bathonia," and "Omnium rerum vicissitudo."

#### BOOKS ETC., RECEIVED.

- Diseases of the Rectum. By Alfred Cooper, F.R.C.S. London: H. K. Lewis. 1887.  
 Guide to the Administration of Anæsthetics. By Henry Davis, M.R.C.S. Eng. London: H. K. Lewis. 1887.  
 A Treatise on the Physiological and Therapeutic Action of the Sulphate of Quinine. By O. F. Manson, M.D. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott and Co. 1887.  
 Common Infective Fevers and the Use of Disinfectants. By Dr. W. Squire. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1887.  
 The Retrospect of Medicine. Vol. xcv. January-June, 1887. Edited by J. Braithwaite, M.D. London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co. 1887.  
 Vaso-Renal Change versus Bright's Disease. By J. Milner Fothergill, M.D., etc. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1887.

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