more exalted soul-flights by calling them 'nothing but' expressions of our organic disposition we feel outraged and hurt for we know that whatever be our organism's peculiarities our mental states have their substantive value as revelations of the living truth, and we wish that all this medical materialism could be made to hold its tongue." "Medical materialism," continues Professor James, "finishes up Saint Paul by calling his vision on the road to Damascus a discharging lesion of the occipital cortex, he being an epileptic. It snuffs out Saint Teresa as an hysteric, Saint Francis of Assisi as an hereditary degenerate. George Fox's discontent with the shams of his age and his pining for spiritual veracity it treats as a symptom of a disordered colon. Carlyle's organ-tones of misery it accounts for by a gastroduodenal catarrh. And medical materialism then thinks that the spiritual authority of all such personages is successfully undermined." Many of us must feel grateful to "Cheops, M.B.," for the warning he has sounded. We shall be aided in our endeavour "to sometimes take a glance at the country round about" by a more diligent perusal of THE LANCET where this very grace of intellectual hospitality abounds.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

June 19th, 1905.

W. E. HENDERSON.

THE TREATMENT OF RINGWORM OF THE SCALP BY THE X RAYS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I have read with much interest Dr. H. G. Adamson's article on this subject in THE LANCET of June 24th and I should be glad if he would give us the benefit of his experience with regard to the liability to burn in different individuals. I have lately had three very instructive cases, all treated at the same time, with the same current, and the same tube. Case 1.—A lady, aged 96 years, with malignant ulceration had one exposure of 13 minutes. She was unable to come again but eight days after showed definite signs of a burn. Case 2.—A lady with lupus of the nose had seven exposures of 12 minutes. On the fifteenth day from the first exposure she showed definite signs of burning which increased for several days. Case 3.—A lady with a small rodent ulcer has had 12 exposures of 12 minutes and shows absolutely no signs of any burns. Will Dr. Adamson kindly say where Sabouraud's pastilles can be obtained?

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

WINWOOD SMITH.

Cockington, Torquay, June 26th, 1905.

DUST-BORNE TYPHOID FEVER.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The epidemic of typhoid fever at Bridgend is of special interest from the fact that the medical officer of health attributes it to the blowing about of infected particles in dust. Can any of your readers refer me to other recorded instances of dust-borne typhoid outbreaks?

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Hereford, June 13th, 1905.

HERBERT JONES.

THE NEW COUNTY HISTORY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—On behalf of ourselves and a considerable number of other medical men assembled at a meeting called for the purpose of considering the following matter, we wish, if you will allow us, to bring it in your pages before our professional brethren in order to elicit as far as practicable their collective opinion about it—viz., whether it is correct ethics or otherwise for medical men to allow their names with personal histories or biographies and photographs, all furnished by themselves, to be published in a work now being brought out which purports to be a county history of Northumberland at the opening of this century, with contemporary biographies and which is advertised by its publishers as "A Romance of Commercial Enterprise and Business Ability"?

We may say, as throwing some light upon the methods adopted in bringing out this publication, that some of us have been given to understand by the agent of the publishers, when he called, that our names, &c., would only be admitted to its pages if we were willing to subscribe for a copy of it

at £5 5s., although this, when mentioned to the publisher himself, who has come north to further the enterprise, has been stated by him not to be correct; however, the fact remains that when several of us as a test question asked his local agent whether our names, biographies, and photographs would be inserted if we did not subscribe for copies, we were told that it was purely a business transaction and that they would not be inserted on other conditions, with the result that the agent withdrew when this was not agreed to. We also have been told that the selection of those who are considered to be "men of standing" sufficient for this publication is made according to the advice of some "local man" who is therefore the arbiter to say who is eminent enough to have his personal biography and photograph admitted to the pages of this so-called "County History."

To the plain man this enterprise will, we think, appear to be only a form of self-advertisement for which many, if not all, would have to pay in the way above indicated in order to be included. We recognise, of course, that numerous eminent public men are included in these volumes (for other counties also have been dealt with) but as much of the history of such men is public property it is difficult to see how they could be kept out even if it were desirable, which we do not assert. We cannot for our part distinguish between the supplying of professional details by professional men in order that they may be published in a book of this kind and any other advertisement for which one would have to pay, if such a thing were not forbidden up to the present time by what we have always understood to be the canons that govern the conduct of all members of the learned professions of this country.

We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

R. S. PEART, Chairman.

LACHLAN FRASER, Honorary Secretary.

North Shields, June 20th, 1905.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Will you kindly extend to me the hospitality of your columns in order to notify all diplomates of the Edinburgh Colleges that a petition will shortly be sent round for signature praying for the addition of a Membership to the existing R.C.S. Ed. qualification. As the expense of the petition will necessarily be very heavy I should be glad to acknowledge any subscriptions sent by diplomates in favour of the movement.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

DAVID WALSH,

Honorary Secretary of the Association of Medical Diplomates of Scotland.

18A, Hanover-street, London, W., June 27th, 1905.

WOOD v. BAILEY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In your article on the above case published in THE LANCET of June 24th the following statement occurs:—

It would, nevertheless, be satisfactory to the profession to hear from him [Dr. Cowper] that he had endeavoured to prevent a defence which he must have foreseen to be futile and that he had striven to enlighten Mr. Bailey with regard to the true nature of his position and his responsibilities.

In reply to this I may state that the first intimation I had that the above case was pending was when Mr. Bailey called on me a few days before the trial. I told him plainly that the defence was absurd and that he would certainly lose the case. I said to him: "If it were possible for you to win a case like this the practice of medicine would be impossible." I pointed out to him that we (medical men) were in the same position as other professional men and asked him if he had ever heard of a barrister being refused his fees because he had not conducted his case differently to what he had done. I told Mr. Bailey's solicitor the same thing and I further said that I declined voluntarily to go as a witness.

You state the plaintiff, Dr. Wood of Shanklin, &c. I may say Dr. Wood practises at Sandown, where the patient resides, whereas my partner and I practise in Shanklin. I may say that my partner (Dr. Hammond) gave Mr. Bailey's solicitor advice similar to that which I gave him.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Shanklin, June 28th, 1905.

JOHN COWPER.