Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

PROFESSOR KOCH'S ADDRESS AT THE BRITISH CONGRESS ON TUBER- CULOSIS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I desire to call attention to an apparent omission in that portion of Professor Koch's address in which he deals with the results of his experimental feeding of swine with bovine tuberculosis. The animals, he says, which "had eaten bacilli of bovine tuberculosis had without exception tuberculous infiltration of the greatly enlarged lymphatic glands of the neck and of the mesenteric glands and also extensive tuberculosis of the lungs and spleen." But although the swine had been infected by the method of feeding no mention is made as to whether tuberculous lesions of the intestine were found in any of the experimental animals. This omission appears to be the more remarkable seeing that in discussing the reasons for his assumption that bovine tuberculosis cannot be conveyed to man by the ingestion of milk or butter containing "living and perfectly virulent bacilli" Professor Koch makes the definite assertion that it is "only when the intestine suffers first" that a case of tuberculosis can be assumed with certainty to have been "caused by alimenta." It may be that although in Professor Koch's address, as reproduced in THE LANCET, no mention of the fact is made, nevertheless, tuberculous lesions of the intestine were really present in addition to those which he enumerates, but in view of the importance which Professor Koch evidently attaches to this condition in the case of man the publication of full details of the post-mortem examinations of these pigs would be of considerable interest.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

July 20th, 1901.

S. MONCKTON COPEMAN.

THE SALE OF DRUGS BY MEDICAL GRADUATES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I am instructed to send you the annexed copy of a resolution recently adopted by the Senatus Academicus of this University and to request that you will kindly give it a place in the next issue of THE LANCET.

I may mention that a similar resolution has been adopted by the University of Edinburgh.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

DONALDSON ROSE THOM,

University of Aberdeen, July 29th, 1901.

Secretary of Senatus.

(COPY.)

"Whilst it is admitted that the exigencies of practice in certain localities may sometimes render it unavoidable for a medical practitioner to supply to his patients the remedies which he prescribes—the Medical Faculty of this University is of opinion that it is undesirable and detrimental to the position of medical graduates of the University that this custom should be followed under other circumstances; and further, it regards the sale of objects other than remedies by its medical graduates as, under all circumstances, to be strongly deprecated."

THE HIGH ALTITUDE TREATMENT: A CORRECTION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In reference to my paper read at Section II. of the Congress on Tuberculosis (on the Physiological Principles of High Altitude Treatment) the table of comparison of the results of different climates, which you have published in THE LANCET of July 27th, p. 239, is Dr. Theodore Williams's and not mine.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Dr. O. AMREIN (Arosa, Switzerland).

"THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON BAKEHOUSES."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The calm and rational tone of the annotation in THE LANCET of July 27th, p. 221, on the proposed legislation on bakehouses contrasts most emphatically

and most favourably with the wild and whirling words which appear in the daily press on the subject. This is the first reflection that occurs to one in reading your remarks and the next is some regret that you should even appear to give the weight of your authority and influence to the proposal to abolish all underground bakehouses. A great many of these bakehouses are quite insanitary and their suppression is a consummation devoutly to be wished, but there are other underground bakehouses which are as perfect—from a sanitary point of view—as any above-ground bakehouses can be. And further—and this is perhaps still more important—there are a great many basements which might be occupied as bakehouses and could be made perfect models of sanitation. At present the fatuous clause in Mr. Asquith's Bill prohibiting the opening of any new underground bakehouse stands in the way, so that the occupiers of insanitary bakehouses are practically compelled to go on as they are. You are doubtless aware that some of the finest public buildings in London—such as the Queen's Hall and the Victoria suite at the Hotel Cecil—are underground in the sense that their floor is below the street level. The fact that it would be illegal to convert any of these places into a bakehouse is the *reductio ad absurdum* of the clause over which Mr. Asquith and Mr. John Burns are congratulating themselves.

Your proposal for a committee of experts is one which I advocated some time ago, and is the first step which an enlightened Government would take. Let such committee settle what is necessary for sanitation, and let the results of their working be taken as a basis for legislation; but do not let us impose upon the baking trade a restriction which is neither necessary nor desirable and condemn all underground bakehouses because some are worthy of condemnation.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

EDITOR OF "THE BAKER AND CONFECTIONER."

July 29th, 1901.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS AND SCARLET FEVER.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—There were so many who wished to speak in the discussion on this subject at Eastbourne on Friday, July 26th, that I held back, feeling sure that someone would take up three points which to me seem to demand consideration. As they were passed by with little or no notice perhaps you will allow me to state them briefly.

1. The more completely isolation is carried out in a given district, of any infectious disease liable to importation, the larger must be each year the number of children not protected by previous attacks and therefore liable to infection. No district has ever managed to isolate more than a part even of the notified cases, and there remain in addition to those known cases left at home all the unrecognised cases as well as the importations from other districts. Outbreaks of measles show what this involves.

2. Isolation, even if partial, is of great value to individual families, not only in enabling them to pursue their occupations with less interruption, but also because it enables them, if not to save their other members from the disease altogether, at any rate to postpone the age at which they take it and so to reduce the risk of mortality.

3. The experience of small-pox (and I probably might say of plague) shows that no serious epidemic of very infectious disease can be controlled by hospital isolation alone. At Middlesbrough, Glasgow, and I think at Gloucester, the spread of the disease was not really checked until general revaccination was introduced. Yet no one seems to question the value of isolation hospitals in small-pox, and I am convinced that in at least two cases, and probably five or six, outbreaks of that disease have been rendered harmless in my own neighbourhood by isolation hospitals. It is the mild and unrecognised cases that will always make complete isolation impossible and incomplete and ineffacious in stamping out small-pox. Why should we expect better results in the case of scarlet fever where as yet we have nothing like vaccination to help us? And is it wise to unsettle public opinion by expressing doubts of the value of isolation hospitals from one point of view without mentioning their advantages in other aspects?

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

MICHAEL THOMAS SADLER, M.D. Lond.,

Medical Officer of Health of Barnsley.

Barnsley, July 29th, 1901.