best comment upon this is that in America, to which you make reference, glucose is an everyday article on the breakfast-table and tea-table. Nor is it true that the reason for using glucose is its cheapness. The reason for using glucose is to prevent granulation and I am rather curious whether you would prefer the use of cream of tartar or some similar agent. I may also point out that the great cause of cheap jams is that with the exception of the fruit they are manufactured from perfectly wholesome by-products of the confectionery trade. It is not too much to say that the price of jam bears no relation to the market price of sugar. The manufacturing confectioner must choose between obtaining a market for these products and throwing them away.

I should not have trespassed on your space, but bearing in mind that wholesome jam can at present be bought at from 2d. per pound upwards it is important that the poor should not be deprived of a nutritious food, either by misleading, though well-intentioned, advice, or by Acts of Parliament passed under false impressions.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

MORRIS STREIMER.

March 6th, 1906.

* * Mr. Streimer mistakes our contentions *in toto*. We never hinted that "raspberry jam" adulterated with apple or gooseberry is unwholesome. But it should not be called raspberry jam, at any rate without explanation. If Mr. Streimer were to ask for two ounces of tea and he was supplied with one ounce of tea and one ounce of coffee, would he be satisfied? As regards beet sugar, we said nothing about it. With respect to glucose, we know perfectly well that glucose will not crystallise and that this is the reason put forward for its use. But the fact remains that the price of cane sugar is 25s. per cwt. and that of glucose is about 10s. If glucose were the crystallisable substance and cane sugar the non-crystallisable would jam manufacturers use the latter? We have no objection upon sanitary grounds to "raspberry" jam being made of apples or gooseberries or beetroot provided that the fact is announced on the label. In the same way jams made with glucose should be so labelled. Mr. Streimer should have no objection to this course. He says that substitute jams are wholesome and that glucose is better than cane sugar as it does not crystallise. Therefore, let him tell his customers plainly what they are buying. With regard to the statement that the price of jam bears no relation to the price of sugar we remember that when in 1904 the price of sugar went up the jam manufacturers said precisely the opposite.—ED. L.

INFANT FEEDING AND EPIDEMIC DIARRHOEA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I should deem it a very great favour if you would afford me space in your journal to refer very briefly to the leading article in your issue of Feb. 24th, p. 533, in which you discuss a paper written by me for the *Journal of Hygiene* on Epidemic Diarrhoea. In this article you very justly point out that the numbers I dealt with—namely, 139 deaths in infants from diarrhoea—are not sufficient to give a trustworthy indication of the relationship between the diets on which infants are reared and their susceptibility to fatal diarrhoea. I supported my inferences by quoting Dr. A. Newsholme's work on the same subject. My numbers were small because from the information available I only selected cases where there was no suggestion of uncertainty as to the diet on which the infants were being fed immediately prior to their attack of diarrhoea. Doubtful and ambiguous cases I discarded.

In the report on the health of Finsbury for 1905 Dr. G. Newman has tabulated the diets of 371 infants dying from diarrhoea in the years 1902-05. Of these, 303 were fed either on condensed milk or cow's milk in the proportion of 42 to 58. My figures based on smaller numbers and arrived at by my own method in the years 1903-04 give almost identical results for the same borough. Out of 107 artificially fed children dying from diarrhoea I found that 41 per cent. were fed on condensed milk and 59 per cent. on cow's milk. Dr. Newsholme of Brighton has investigated the cases of 71 infants fed on cow's milk or condensed milk and dying from

diarrhoea. Of these he found that 45 per cent. were fed on condensed milk and 55 per cent. on cow's milk.

Both in Finsbury and Brighton the diets of children surviving for the first year of life have been recorded, the Finsbury figures being based on 554 children and the Brighton figures on 608. Of these some 70 per cent. were breast-fed. The following are the results put briefly and as percentages:—

FINSBURY.		Condensed milk.	Cow's milk.
Deaths (107) from diarrhoea, 1903-04	...	41	59 = 100
Deaths (303) " 1902-05	...	42	58 = 100
Survivors (161)...	...	35	65 = 100
BRIGHTON.			
Deaths (71) from diarrhoea...	...	45	55 = 100
Survivors (151)	...	27	73 = 100

If the percentages for "survivors" are compared with the percentages for "deaths" immediately above them in the vertical columns it will be seen that a strong case against condensed milk has been made out in both Finsbury and Brighton by entirely independent observers. Similar results have been obtained by the medical officer of health of Croydon. May I express the opinion that there is more in this than coincidence and that when the Finsbury figures amount to thousands, as ultimately they will, it will be found to be a fact, and not a guess from insufficient data, that infants fed on condensed milk are more liable to fatal diarrhoea than infants fed on cow's milk.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

J. E. SANDILANDS.

Launceston-place, Kensington, W., March 6th, 1906.

LOW-TENSION HIGH-FREQUENCY CURRENTS AND ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I regret that in my paper on a New Method for the Production of Ultra-violet and Other Rays, published in THE LANCET of March 3rd, an unfortunate, but obvious, error occurs due to a mistake in copying from my original draft. In the second paragraph on p. 588 there is this sentence: "These experiments induced me to have constructed a third machine which would deliver ten ampères at 80 volts with a periodicity of 360,000,000 per second." "Second" should read "minute," as the context clearly indicates.

With respect to your sympathetic references to my article under the head of "Annotations," I note your comment that I do not state how I arrive at my measurements in the claim I put forward of being able to pass from six to seven ampères through the body without any painful or disagreeable sensation. My reply is that what are known as "dead-beat" meters were used and that these had previously been subjected to the most careful and stringent tests by well-known and reliable London makers. Then, too, by short-circuiting the apparatus, with the meter in circuit, corresponding, and at the same time confirmatory, measurements were obtained. I need hardly add that I shall be happy to afford every facility for an independent test being made of the machine and the new ray tube.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Cardiff, March 6th, 1906.

J. CUNNINGHAM BOWIE.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHLORIDE OF ETHYL AS A GENERAL ANÆSTHETIC.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Your remarks in THE LANCET of March 3rd, p. 615, upon the use of chloride of ethyl as a general anæsthetic and the inferences which you draw from the sad fatality recently reported seem to call for further comment. Those who have frequent opportunities of administering this anæsthetic are almost unanimous that it is a most valuable and safe agent in suitable cases and in experienced hands, while they are equally agreed that it is certainly not an anæsthetic to be employed by the inexperienced. It is, in fact, the ideal anæsthetic for operations of such a length that gas or gas and oxygen would give too transient an anæsthesia, while ether would give an unnecessarily long one; in other words, for operations requiring an anæsthesia of from 50 to 120