SISTER FRENCH MEMORIAL FUND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—May we draw the attention of former and present students of the Manchester Royal Infirmary to the above fund, which has been initiated to commemorate the 35 years of faithful service rendered to the institution by the late Sister French, who passed away in November last. It is intended to place (1) a tablet in her old ward in S.I. Unit, and (2) a small stained-glass window in the infirmary chapel.

Contributions may be sent to the general superintendent and secretary at the infirmary, and will be duly acknowledged by him.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

G. A. WRIGHT, F.R.C.S.,
Honorary Consulting Surgeon;

J. HOWSON RAY, F.R.C.S.,

Feb. 25th, 1916. Honorary Surgeon, Manchester Royal Infirmary.

CLINICAL THERMOMETRY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—May I add my testimony to that of Sir Lauder Brunton and Sir George Savage as to the use of the old indexless thermometers? I quite well remember using them in 1865–66 when acting as clinical clerk to Dr. (now Sir Clifford) Allbutt at the old infirmary, Leeds. On turning over my notes I find that these instruments were often used by both physicians and surgeons to the infirmary.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

CHARLES ALDRIDGE, M.D. Aberd.

Plympton, South Devon, Feb. 23rd, 1916.

THE COAL SMOKE ABATEMENT SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—With reference to your appreciative article on the work of the Committee for the Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution, in which you give me the chief credit of founding the Coal Smoke Abatement Society, I wish to point out for the sake of historical accuracy that this is not correct. This society was formed as the result of a letter addressed by Sir William Richmond to the *Times*, and published on Nov. 18th, 1898, and the first meeting was held at 6, Onslow-gardens, the residence of the late Mr. Frederick Verney, at which Sir William Richmond was elected President.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

H. A. DES VŒUX,
Honorary Treasurer, Coal Smoke
Abatement Society.

Buckingham Gate, S.W., Feb. 26th, 1916.

WOMEN DENTAL STUDENTS IN LONDON.—The School of Dental Surgery at the Royal Dental Hospital of London, in Leicester-square, has recently opened its classes to women students, who already have facilities for study at the Dental Department of University College Hospital. A circular relating to arrangements for women dental students has been issued by the Dean of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine, and can be obtained on application to the Secretary, 8, Hunter-street, W.C.

CHILD-WELFARE IN IRELAND.—The Under Secretary for Ireland, Sir Matthew Nathan, recently announced at Dublin that a new Treasury grant of £5000 had been made available for child-welfare in Ireland, the chief condition being that in case of its coming into operation in any district an equivalent sum should be raised from local bodies, either by way of a special rate or from private subscriptions. So far the only local body to take action in this matter is the Newry urban council, and their proposal has been sanctioned by the Local Government Board of Ireland.

Obituary.

PIETRO GROCCO.

SCIENCE, literature, art have their own "front" or "fighting line" as much as the profession of arms, and under each of the above heads Italy has just sustained losses not less severe than those of her general officers in the war zone. After De Cristoforis, Baccelli, and now, after Baccelli, Grocco; in these Italy has lost three of her greatest clinical teachers and consultants, the former two at a patriarchal, though still hale and active, old age, the last-named comparatively young.

Pietro Grocco was born of humble parents in the Province of Pavia in the June of 1856, and while still a lad evinced at the lycée an intelligence and a mental energy which were yet more conspicuous at the University. Enrolled in the medical curriculum he inspired all his teachers with the best hopes of his future, and, on graduating with honours, his record was inscribed in the University album as "the most brilliant ever registered at Pavia." Three years thereafter he repaired to Paris to attend the clinique of Charcot, and in 1882 he went to Vienna to study under Rosenthal—from both of whom he drew a knowledge and an inspiration which, embodied in papers read before successive congresses of "Medicina Interna," placed him in the front rank of Italy's rising clinicians. A three years' tenure of the chair of practice of medicine at Perugia was followed by his election to a post on the same subject at Pisa, whence in 1892 he was transferred to Florence, there to act as Direttore della Medicina Clinica in the Istituto di Studi Superiori. By this time he had become an authority in more than one group of diseases, and his skill in diagnosis and treatment found ever-increasing scope in a consulting practice which extended all over Italy. The Florentine school enjoyed, however, his special care and largess, founding as he did, mainly from his own resources, the Istituto Antirabico on the lines of Pasteur, and making the thermal waters of the neighbouring Montecatini a balneary centre in practical connexion with his courses on the vast group of rheumatoid maladies. For a series of summers he first coöperated with Baccelli and then succeeded him in developing the efficacy and enhancing the repute of those waters, till numbers of patients, after wintering in this or that Italian "sun-trap," ceased to cross the Alps as formerly for balneary treatment, but found in Montecatini a "cure" equal, if not superior, to that supposed to be peculiar to the Austro-Hungarian resorts.

In 1905 he was made a Senator of the Kingdom, in accordance with Italy's custom to promote men of scientific distinction to the Upper Chamber, and here again his advice or intervention was of public benefit in more than one hygienic "departure." Consulting practice and clinical prælections and occasional legislative work, however, did not exhaust his energies, his pen being often in request not only for contributions to the agenda paper of this or that Congress of Internal Medicine, but also for express publications. The mere enumeration of these occupies half a closely printed column of the leading Florentine journal—many of them of more than temporary value; some of them, indeed, still standards of reference, particularly on neurasthenia and arterio-sclerosis; on angina pectoris; on certain forms of hepatic disease as ascertained by palpation and percussion; on the differential diagnosis of biliary calculus and duodenal ulcer; on the