NOTE ON THE ESTIMATION OF FAT BY CLAUSNIZER AND MAYER'S FORMULA.

BY A. WYNTER BLYTH, M.R.C.S.

IN 41 samples of milk derived from various sources, and fairly representing the average supply, the formula was tested by the following procedure:—10 grammes of milk were evaporated in the usual way by exposure on the water-bath for from three to four hours; after weighing the residue, the dish was treated with dry ether, and the fat weighed directly and also estimated by difference. The specific gravity was taken in an ordinary 50 gramme specific gravity bottle; from the specific gravity and from the total solids, the amount of fat was calculated by the formula and the results compared. The following is a summary:—

In 3 out of the 41 cases, correct to the second decimal place.

In 19 or 46·3 per cent., correct to the first place.

In 13 out of the 38 cases, the error was plus; that is, the fat was over-estimated and ranged from ·01 to ·38, the mean being ·11.

In 25 out of the 38 cases, the error was minus; that is, the fat was returned too low. The range was from ·01 to ·89, the mean being ·13.

I trust that other analysts will follow the matter up and publish abstracts of their results, for it seems that the method is likely to be very useful; and at all events, sufficiently accurate in a majority of instances for technical work.

As to the correctness of the formula, that formula will survive which gives the best results.

ANALYSTS OF THE NEW YORK STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

At the meeting of the New York State Board of Health, held in Albany on the 9th of May, the following-named gentlemen were elected Analysts for the ensuing year. Samuel A. Lattimore, Ph.D., Rochester; Willis G. Tucker, Ph.D., Albany; Drs. Frederick Hoffman and J. G. Love, of New York.