SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE BY MILK.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have pleasure in sending you a copy of a memorial sent to Mr. Dodson by the North-western Association of Medical Officers of Health.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

Manchester, Nov. 26th, 1881.

F. SCOTT.

To the Right Honourable J. G. Dodson, M.P., President of the Local Government Board.

The Memorial of the North-western Association of Medical Officers of Health respectfully sheweth:—That your memorialists are a body of medical officers of health practising in the counties of Lancaster, Chester, Derby, and the West Riding of the county of York. That your memorialists having evidence that certain epidemic diseases, as scarlatina and typhoid fever, are not infrequently spread by means of milk, and holding that certain epizootic diseases, as foot and mouth disease, may also be occasionally spread by means of milk, and believing that the powers local authorities already possess are inadequate to prevent the specific contamination of milk, or its sale when contaminated, would urge upon your honourable board the desirability of taking steps to provide local authorities with additional powers, that is to say:—1. To enable local authorities to require all licensed milk-sellers to notify all cases of infectious disease appearing on their premises, with ability to close their premises till the removal of the infected animal or person, and the disinfection of the premises. 2. To enable local authorities to veto the sale of milk by vendors coming from without such authorities' boundaries.

Your memorialists would also urge on your honourable board that local authorities should be notified by memoranda or otherwise, to put in force the powers they at present possess for the efficient inspection of milk, enjoining in particular:—1. That proper inspectors be appointed. 2. That the fixtures of premises proposed to be used for dairy purposes be referred to the local health officer to determine. 3. That the storing or selling of milk in general shops be prohibited. 4. That samples of milk be taken for analysis from time to time from all licensed vendors in a district, and not merely from those against whom specific complaints have been made.

Your memorialists therefore earnestly pray that these propositions of your memorialists may have your careful attention.

And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

(Signed on behalf of the North-western Association of Medical Officers of Health),

G. A. KENYON, President.
FRANCIS VACHER, Hon. Sec.

Nov. 24th, 1881.

Obituary.

RICHARD SWEETING, M.D.

It is our sad duty to chronicle the death of this gentleman, which occurred on Oct. 13th at sea. Dr. Sweeting was born in the Bahamas in 1829, and began his professional education at the old Manchester Royal School of Medicine in Pine-street and the Royal Infirmary in 1849, being apprenticed to the late Dr. Close, a leading practitioner of that city. Here, under the able guidance and teaching of such men as Lund, Calvert, William Smith, Watts, and others, he achieved brilliant success, both in the class-room and the hospital wards, carrying off numerous medals and prizes, and evoking eulogiums from his teachers for his great industry and intelligence. The old system of apprenticeship then in vogue also enabled him to gain a thorough insight into the working of practice, and laid the foundation of his success in after-life. In 1854 he graduated at St. Andrews and obtained his College diploma, after which he practised for eight years at Nassau in the Bahamas. In 1862 he came to England, and after remaining about a year in Cambridgeshire proceeded to Stratford in Essex. In this part he practised with great success and credit for fourteen years, and possessed a large and busy connexion, being universally esteemed and respected. But, like many other members of our profession, hard work told eventually upon his health, and in 1877 he was induced to retire from active toil. He lived after this in Clapham-park, but was obliged every winter to pay frequent visits to health-resorts on the south coast. The winter of 1879-80, spent in America and the West Indies, so recruited his health that a long tenure of life was expected; but this proved delusive, as he died on his way to seek a similar escape from the trying climate of this country. Death occurred on board the Cunard steamer *Gallia*, five days after leaving Liverpool, the immediate cause being uræmia and failure of heart. As a practitioner, Dr. Sweeting was distinguished as an accurate diagnostician and accomplished accoucheur, and displayed great originality and resource in the treatment of children; he also contrived to find time, amidst the cares

of a heavy practice, to contribute papers on leprosy in the West Indies, scarlatina, and cancer of the breast to the medical journals, and latterly was much interested in the question of the treatment of tetanus and hydrophobia, advocating the employment of copious venesection. He married in 1855 the daughter of the late Dr. Deane of St. Ives, by whom he leaves issue, two sons (one of them in the profession) and a daughter.

JACOB SANDERSON DENHAM, M.D. GLASG., &c., SOUTH SHIELDS.

WE lately recorded the death of a medical man at Tyne-mouth, who had creditably impressed his individuality on two or three generations. We have now the painful duty of chronicling the death of a member of the profession on the south side of the mouth of the Tyne, who, though not much known beyond his native town, was well known there, and will be greatly missed. Dr. Denham, walking or, still more, riding, was a familiar figure. He was very attentive to his professional duties, which included those of many public appointments. He was medical officer of the Westoe district of the South Shields Union and of the workhouse, surgeon to the Ingham Infirmary and South Shields and Westoe Dispensary, certifying factory surgeon, medical inspector of seamen for South Shields, and assistant-surgeon to the 6th Durham Royal Volunteers. He was an excellent practitioner, and his assistance in medical, surgical, or obstetric cases was often sought by, and always cheerfully given to, his medical brethren. Dr. Denham took the membership of the College of Surgeons of England in 1847, and under this diploma held Poor-law appointments. It is to his credit that twenty years later he took the degree of the University of Glasgow. Though Dr. Denham was remarkable for attention to his patients, even the poorest, and for a keen human interest in men "of all sorts and conditions," he also found time for active work in connexion with Freemasonry and with the Conservative party, of which he was a consistent member. Though Dr. Denham's death from apoplexy occurred at the comparatively early age of sixty-one, his rather feeble organisation made the attainment of that age somewhat remarkable.

E. A. H. HEAD, M.B., M.R.C.P. LOND., &c.

THIS accomplished physician, who died at the residence of his brother, the Rectory, Teigngrace, Devonshire, aged fifty-two, was of a most retiring disposition and much esteemed by his friends. He was a Devonian by birth and naturally not very robust. He received his medical education at King's College, where he took the highest honours. For several years he was in general practice in St. John's Wood, and held the appointment of District Medical Officer for Lisson-grove. In 1861 he moved to Harley-street (having sold his practice), where he practised most successfully as physician-accoucheur, and was conjoint lecturer on Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children with the late Dr. Ramsbotham, at the London Hospital, at whose death he succeeded to the full lectureship. Through failing health, he was compelled to resign his appointment and to relinquish practice. Of late years he had held the appointment of inspector of factories for the City of London.

PRESENTATION.—On Monday last, Mr. Alex. Fraser, M.B., the Assistant Lecturer on Anatomy at the Medical School, Owens College, Manchester, was presented by the students with an illuminated address and microscope, in appreciation of the efforts and zeal which Mr. Fraser had shown during the time of his connexion with the school in aiding the students in their anatomical studies. The microscope is a magnificent instrument, by Zeiss, of Jena. Its value is about £35; and a plate bears the following inscription: "Presented to Alex. Fraser, Esq., M.B., by the students of the Owens College Medical School, November, 1881."

LADY DE TABLEY laid the foundation stone of a new hospital in connexion with the Knutsford Workhouse on the 23rd ult. The new building, which is to cost about £7000, is to be erected from the designs of Messrs. Tate and Popplewell of Manchester.