remuneration really due to their neighbours, this was not expressed in the resolution.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Wells-street, W., Oct. 5th, 1914.

J. M. TWENTYMAN.

THE TREATMENT OF STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In a leading article in THE LANCET of Oct. 3rd, in which some reference under this heading is made to a paper of mine appearing in the same issue, it is suggested that the hæmolysin of the streptococcus is possibly identical with its endotoxin. Although this may be the case, it is to the possible identity of streptococcal hæmolysin with a genuine exotoxin that I wished to draw attention in my paper. As I have perhaps not made this sufficiently clear, and as the existence of a genuine exotoxin in streptococcal cultures has been frequently denied, it may be stated that in Braun's experiments rabbits were killed within 24 hours by the intravenous injection of 5 c.c. of filtrates of the cultures of certain streptococci. In the experiments carried out by Dr. McNee and myself similar results were obtained with larger doses of filtrate. Apart from the usual test of the sterility of the filtrate our results were farther controlled in the following way:—The filtrate from a culture was divided into two portions, and while one of these was injected directly to a rabbit, the other was incubated over night, a proceeding which almost completely destroyed its hæmolytic power, and injected to a second rabbit. Whereas the first rabbit usually showed signs of severe intoxication and often died, the second was never inconvenienced. This result appeared to us to justify the conclusion that certain streptococci produced a genuine although very labile exotoxin, which was closely allied to streptococcal hæmolysin.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

JAMES WALTER MCLEOD,

Assistant Lecturer in Pathology, Medical School,
Charing Cross Hospital.

Oct. 6th, 1914.

HELICON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—One is bound to endorse the Government policy "not to close all German concerns when they were carried on for the benefit of British labour." What I suggest—the prescribing of British helicon instead of German aspirin—would not have that tendency.

The same amount would be expended for British labour, but the profits would go into the right pockets, not into those of our enemy.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Hove, Oct. 5th, 1914.

EDWARD TREVES.

TREATMENT OF THE WOUNDED IN THIS COUNTRY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Even medical men may not have too clear an idea of the scheme upon which the wounded in the war are being dealt with in this country, while it is obvious from communications that have appeared in the daily press that many of the public have no conception of the procedure. The articles on the organisation of medical service in the field will do good, but have you sufficiently shown that in the processes of collecting, sifting, and shifting a large proportion of the most serious

cases will be retained abroad? There is little information yet as to the work done by the Royal Army Medical Corps with the Expeditionary Force, but that its resources have been sorely tried is well known and that its personnel has exhibited great courage and devotion can be gleaned. It is right to insist that the character and course of the campaign have made the prompt care of the wounded impossible sometimes.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Oct. 5th, 1914.

R. W.

THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.

THE WAR AND THE REVISION OF THE MEDICAL BENEFIT REGULATIONS.

It was generally regarded as likely that considerable revision of the medical benefit regulations and of the terms and conditions of medical service under the Insurance Acts would take place at the end of the current year. The Commissioners have confirmed this in the memorandum to Insurance Committees issued last week, stating that the preparation of revised regulations to come into force on Jan 1st., 1915, had for some time engaged their attention when war intervened, bringing with it the abnormal conditions with which the country is now becoming familiar. In these circumstances the Commissioners, although convinced of the desirability of the changes which they intended to make, have decided that any thorough revision of the existing regulations at the present juncture would involve disadvantages outweighing any benefit which might be expected to accrue therefrom. With this decision the medical profession will heartily agree, and will recognise the spirit of consideration shown for its members in the unprecedented and unforeseen situations in which many of them now find themselves. The Commissioners sum up the position by pointing out that members of Insurance Committees and of the medical and pharmaceutical professions are pre-occupied with special problems, local or national, and are voluntarily undertaking exceptional duties in the public interest or in the service of their country which makes it desirable to avoid as far as possible the imposing upon them of the consultations and negotiations involved by substantial revision of the regulations. Further, the Commissioners take into account the number of panel practitioners abroad on active service (with whom they might have included those absent from their practices, although not yet on active service abroad) and express themselves disinclined to introduce changes with regard to which no notice of their intentions could be given "to a section of the medical profession so specially entitled to consideration." As, however, it is possible that the end of war might enable regulations to be considered before the last months of 1915, the Commissioners have decided to make a change as regards the date on which alterations of agreements, both with medical men and druggists, may take place. A draft regulation is accordingly issued by which, as regards the year 1915, the Joint Committee shall have power to alter terms of service upon giving notice to medical practitioners not less than eight weeks before the date of the alteration proposed and not less than six weeks in the case of druggists. The articles in the regulations applying to changes in the terms of agreements are to apply as though the date which may thus be fixed at any time during 1915