cultures from throat swabs, but it is possible that plates of this medium might form a useful separation method for direct cultures from the throats of meningococcal contacts. In passing, it may be mentioned that the *B. diphtheriae* grows well on the new medium.

In connexion with the keeping of laboratory cultures of the meningococcus on serum-agar and ascitic fluid media, the necessity for frequent subcultivation is well known. The claims of ordinary blood serum for this purpose would appear to have been somewhat overlooked. It has been found that Loeffler's serum forms a medium on which the meningococcus is long-lived. On more than one occasion the coccus has been found to be alive in cultures one month old. Either the new Congo red serum or Loeffler's serum is recommended for laboratory cultures of meningococcus, the tubes being kept in the incubator and subcultures made every fortnight.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. H. JOHNSTON, M.Sc.

Arundel-street, Strand, W.C., Jan. 6th, 1917.

THE HOT-AIR OVEN AS AN INSPISSATOR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the absence of an inspissator in the bacteriological laboratory I have found that the hot-air oven can be utilised as such to far greater advantage than with the water-bath, the inspissator's usual substitute. Two pieces of glass rod calculated to give the required slope to the serum in the test-tubes are fixed by means of plasticine to a sheet of asbestos, the tubes of serum laid across each rod, and the whole placed in the oven. The purpose of the asbestos is to prevent any charring which might occur if the tubes were placed on the floor of the oven without any protection owing to the proximity of the Bunsen heater. I have found inspissation for 30 minutes at 80° C. ample in the majority of cases by the above method.

The great advantages of this technique are that it is a great deal quicker than with the water-bath, and the dimensions of the hot-air oven being generally in excess of those of the former a greater number of tubes can be inspissated at one time.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

E. L. COOPER,

Jan. 1st, 1917.

Bacteriologist, No. 14 Mobile Field Laboratory.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.—We have received from the secretary of the Senatus the annual report for 1916, containing the following items of medical interest. The total number of matriculated students during the year was 1741, of whom 1060 were men and 681 were women. Of these, 941 (including 238 women) were enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine. Of the students of medicine, 446 belonged to Scotland, 143 were from England and Wales, 34 from Ireland, 79 from India, 216 from British colonies and dependencies, and 23 from foreign countries. The number of medical students from the colonies and dependencies was 23 in excess of the number for 1915, South Africa accounting fully for the increase. The following medical degrees were conferred during 1916: Bachelor of Medicine and Master in Surgery (M.B., C.M.), 1; Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (M.B., Ch.B.), 128; Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), 18. The total annual value of the University fellowships, scholarships, bursaries, and prizes in the Faculty of Medicine now amounts to £5565. Women students of medicine, who formerly received their education in extra-mural classes, have been admitted to University courses in all the subjects of the medical curriculum. An Ordinance is being promoted for the foundation of a chair in tuberculosis, funds amounting to £18,000 having been transferred for this purpose to the University Court by the Royal Victoria Hospital Tuberculosis Trust. Additional lecturers have been appointed in the Faculty of Medicine as follows: in pathology, Dr. James Miller; in materia medica, Dr. John Orr; in midwifery, Dr. J. W. Ballantyne. Mr. J. W. Dowden has succeeded Mr. C. W. Cathcart as one of the senior lecturers in clinical surgery. On Feb. 15th the death occurred of the venerable Principal, Sir William Turner, at the age of 84. His active association with the University—as demonstrator in anatomy, as professor of anatomy, and as Principal—extended over 62 years. The vacancy in the Principalship was filled up by the appointment, in May, of Sir J. Alfred Ewing, Director of Naval Education at the Admiralty.

The War.

THE CASUALTY LIST.

THE following names of medical officers appear among the casualties announced since our last issue:—

Died.

Lieut.-Col. R. C. McLeod, Canadian Army Medical Corps, was a student at New York University Medical College, and was licensed in 1891. Before joining the Canadian Contingent he was in practice at North Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Wounded.

Capt. C. E. Whitehead, R.A.M.C.

Capt. J. H. Askins, R.A.M.C.

Capt. T. P. Cole, R.A.M.C., attached Royal Field Artillery.

Lieut. D. Campbell, R.A.M.C.

DEATHS AMONG THE SONS OF MEDICAL MEN.

The following sons of medical men must be added to our lists of those who have fallen during the war:—

Capt. and Flight-Commander J. W. W. Nason, Royal Sussex Regiment, and Royal Flying Corps, younger son of the late Dr. C. St. S. R. Nason, of Corse Grange, Gloucester. Second Lieut. R. N. Heathcote, East Yorkshire Regiment, only surviving son of Dr. R. Heathcote, West Didsbury, Manchester.

Second Lieut. W. D. Semple, King's Royal Rifle Corps, eldest son of Col. Sir D. Semple, Director-General, Public Health Department, Egypt.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

The names of the following officers of the medical services, whose "distinguished and gallant services and devotion to duty" he considers are deserving of special mention, are included in the recent despatch from Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, G.C.B., Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France:—

STAFF.

Black, Maj. R. B., R.A.M.C., Res. of Off.

Burtchaell, Col. C. H., C.M.G.

Macpherson, Surg.-Gen. W. G., C.B., C.M.G., Hon. Phys. to the King.

Sloggett, Lt.-Gen. Sir A. T., K.C.B., C.M.G., Hon. Surg. to the King.

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY.

Bailey, Surg.-Maj. F. W., D.S.O.

Peck, Surg.-Maj. E. G.

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.

Alexander, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) J. D., R.A.M.C.

Barefoot, Col. G. H., C.M.G.; Bewley, Col. A. W.; Blackham,

Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) R. J., C.I.E., R.A.M.C.; Bliss, Lt.-Col. (temp.

Col.) E. W., R.A.M.C.; Bowen, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) A. W. N.,

R.A.M.C.; Brazier-Creagh, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) G. W., C.M.G.,

ret. pay; Browne, Col. E. G., C.B.; Browne, Maj. C. G., D.S.O.,

R.A.M.C.; Buswell, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) F. R., R.A.M.C.

Chopping, Lt.-Col. A., C.M.G., R.A.M.C.; Conway, Maj. J. M. H.,

R.A.M.C.; Cree, Col. G., C.M.G.

De Wesselow, Temp. Capt. O. L. V.; Daly, Col. T.; Dowsett,

Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) E. B., R.A.M.C.

Emerson, Maj. H. H. A., R.A.M.C.; Ensor, Bt. Col. and Lt.-Col.

(temp. Col.) H., D.S.O., R.A.M.C.; Evans, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) P.,

C.M.G., R.A.M.C.

Fawcus, Lt.-Col. H. B., C.M.G., R.A.M.C.; Ferguson, Lt.-Col.

(temp. Col.) J. D., D.S.O.; Furnival, Maj. C. H., R.A.M.C.

Garrard, Col. J. J.; Gray, Col. W. L.; Greig, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.)

F. J., Res. of Off.

Harty, Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) T. E., R.A.M.C.; Hime, Lt.-Col.

H. C. R., R.A.M.C.; Hinge, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) H. A., C.M.G.,

R.A.M.C.; Hooper, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) A. W., C.M.G., D.S.O.

Ievers, Maj. O., R.A.M.C.; Irwin, Col. (temp. Surg.-Gen.), J.M.

Logan, Capt. D. D., R.A.M.C.; Luther, Col. A. J.

Macdonald, Col. S., C.M.G.; MacLeod, Col. R. L. R.; Martin, Maj.

C. J., R.A.M.C.; Martin, Maj. J. F., C.M.G., R.A.M.C.; Maughan,

Maj. J. St. A., R.A.M.C.; Millar, Maj. C. R., R.A.M.C.; Morgan,

Col. F. J.

Newland, Col. F. R.

O'Keefe, Surg.-Gen. M. W., C.B.

Pike, Col. (temp. Surg.-Gen.) W. W., C.M.G., D.S.O.; Pocock, Col.

H. I.; Poe, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) J., D.S.O., R.A.M.C.; Pollock,

Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) C. E., R.A.M.C.; Profeit, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.)

C. W., R.A.M.C.; Prynne, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) H. V., R.A.M.C.;

Purser, Maj. L. M.

Roch, Lt.-Col. H. S., R.A.M.C.; Ryan, Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) E.,

D.S.O.

Scott, Col. B. H.; Scott, Temp. Capt. E., R.A.M.C.; Scott, Capt.

T. H., M.C., R.A.M.C.; Shanahan, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) D. D.,

R.A.M.C.; Sheehan, Maj. G. F., R.A.M.C.; Sherrin, Maj. H. G.,

R.A.M.C.; Silver, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) J. P., R.A.M.C.; Skinner, Col.

B. V., C.M.G., M.V.O.; Slayter, Lt. Col. (temp. Col.) E. W., C.M.G.,

R.A.M.C.; Symons, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) F. A., D.S.O., R.A.M.C.