

McMunn, C.M.G., late R.A.M.C.; Col. C. K. Morgan, C.M.G., late R.A.M.C.; Lt. and Bt.-Col. A. L. A. Webb, C.M.G., R.A.M.C.; Lt.-Col. and Bt.-Col. Sir E. S. Worthington, Kt., K.C.V.O., C.M.G., R.A.M.C.; Col. J. A. Gunn, O.B.E., C.A.M.C.; Col. C. F. Wyld, C.A.M.C.

C.M.G.—Maj.-Gen. J. J. Gerrard, O.B.; Maj.-Gen. J. T. Thomson, C.B., A.M.S.; Lt.-Col. W. Thorburn, C.B., R.A.M.C., T.F.; Lt.-Col. S. G. Barling, R.A.M.C., T.F.; Lt.-Col. (acting Col.) E. C. Montgomery-Smith, D.S.O., R.A.M.C., T.F.; Temp. Lt.-Col. C. G. Douglas, M.C., R.A.M.C.; Maj. and Bt. Lt.-Col. C. G. Browne, D.S.O., R.A.M.C.; Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) T. P. Dunhill, Austr. A.M.C.; Temp. Lt.-Col. G. R. Thomson, Sth. Afr. M.C.; Lt.-Col. and Bt.-Col. (temp. Col.) W. W. White, C.B., I.M.S.; Lt.-Col. and Bt.-Col. A. J. Macnab, C.B., I.M.S.; Temp. Col. H. Wade, D.S.O., A.M.S.; Temp. Col. C. C. Choyce, C.B.E., A.M.S.; Lt.-Col. G. M. C. Smith, I.M.S.; Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) W. P. Gwynn, R.A.M.C.; Maj. and Bt. Lt.-Col. (acting Col.) C. W. Holden, D.S.O., R.A.M.C.; Col. W. T. Mould, late R.A.M.C.; Maj. (acting Col.) E. L. Moss, M.C., R.A.M.C.; Maj.-Gen. R. Porter, C.B., ret. pay; Lt.-Col. Sir J. K. Fowler, K.C.V.O., R.A.M.C., T.F.; Temp. Lt.-Col. P. W. G. Sargent, D.S.O., R.A.M.C.; Lt.-Col. (acting Col.) A. M. McIntosh, R.A.M.C., T.F.; Maj. (acting Lt.-Col.) J. Ward, D.S.O., R.A.M.C., T.F.; Lt.-Col. A. C. Rankin, C.A.M.C.; Lt.-Col. (acting Col.) W. T. M. Mackinnon, C.A.M.C.; Lt.-Col. F. C. Bell, C.A.M.C.; Lieut. E. L. Stone, C.A.M.C.; Lt.-Col. J. H. Anderson, C.B.E., Austr. A.M.C.

C.I.E.—Lt.-Col. R. H. Maddox, I.M.S.; Maj. (acting Lt.-Col.) A. B. Fry, D.S.O., I.M.S.; Maj. (acting Lt.-Col.) L. E. Gilbert, I.M.S.; Maj. (acting Lt.-Col.) W. D. A. Keys, I.M.S.; Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) W. M. Anderson, I.M.S.; Maj. (acting Lt.-Col.) P. L. O'Neill, I.M.S.; Capt. (temp. Maj.) G. G. Jolly, I.M.S.; Lt.-Col. R. A. Needham, D.S.O., D.D.G., I.M.S.; Lt.-Col. W. D. Sutherland, I.M.S.; Lt.-Col. J. J. Bourke, I.M.S.; Lt.-Col. J. Stephenson, I.M.S.

C.S.I.—Col. C. Mactaggart, C.I.E., I.M.S., Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, United Provinces.

FOREIGN DECORATIONS.

Italian.

Silver Medal for Valour.—Capt. J. E. Allan, R.A.M.C. (S.R.); Capt. W. Bidinow, R.A.M.C. (S.R.).

Bronze Medal for Valour.—Temp. Capt. F. J. A. Keane, R.A.M.C.; Temp. Capt. J. T. Lloyd, M.C., R.A.M.C.; Capt. (acting Maj.) G. R. E. G. Mackay, M.C., R.A.M.C. (T.F.).

Croce di Guerra.—Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) S. A. Archer, C.M.G., R.A.M.C.; Temp. Capt. H. E. M. Baylis, R.A.M.C.; Capt. (acting Lt.-Col.) R. A. Broderick, D.S.O., M.C., R.A.M.C. (T.F.); Temp. Capt. J. M. Christie, R.A.M.C.; Temp. Capt. A. Emerson, R.A.M.C.; Capt. (acting Maj.) T. D. Inch, O.B.E., M.C., R.A.M.C.; Maj.-Gen. F. R. Newland, C.B., C.M.G., A.M.S.; Capt. R. L. Newell, R.A.M.C. (S.R.); Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) R. Pickard, C.M.G., R.A.M.C. (T.F.); Temp. Capt. J. P. Shaw, M.C., R.A.M.C.; Capt. O. Teichmann, D.S.O., M.C., R.A.M.C. (T.F.R.); Capt. (acting Maj.) T. O. Thompson, R.A.M.C.

Japanese.

Order of the Rising Sun, 4th Class.—Col. W. R. Smith, R.A.M.C. (T.F.).

French.

Legion of Honour: Officer.—Surg.-Capt. G. T. Broad, C.B.E., R.N.
Officier d'Instruction Publique.—Surg.-Lieut. M. E. T. D. Vlasto, R.N.

URBAN VITAL STATISTICS.

(Week ended May 31st, 1919.)

English and Welsh Towns.—In the 96 English and Welsh towns, with an aggregate civil population estimated at 16,500,000 persons, the annual rate of mortality, which had declined from 13·7 to 10·8 per 1000 in the four preceding weeks, further fell to 10·7 per 1000. In London, with a population slightly exceeding 4,000,000 persons, the death-rate was 10·3 per 1000, and was equal to that recorded in the previous week, while among the remaining towns it ranged from 3·9 in Huddersfield, 4·6 in Leyton, and 5·0 in Cambridge, to 11·2 in Walsall, 17·3 in Rochdale, and 19·7 in Carlisle. The principal epidemic diseases caused 145 deaths, which corresponded to an annual rate of 0·5 per 1000, and included 42 from infantile diarrhoea, 40 from diphtheria, 28 from measles, 15 from whooping-cough, 13 from scarlet fever, 6 from enteric fever, and 1 from small-pox. Measles caused a death-rate of 1·7 in Middlesbrough, 1·8 in Tynemouth, and 3·2 in Rotherham. The fatal case of small-pox belonged to Croydon. There were 3 cases of small-pox, 1078 of scarlet fever, and 1100 of diphtheria under treatment in the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals and the London Fever Hospital, against 3, 1055, and 1109 respectively at the end of the previous week. The causes of 20 deaths in the 96 towns were uncertified, of which 4 were registered in Birmingham and 2 in London.

Scotch Towns.—In the 16 largest Scotch towns, with an aggregate population estimated at nearly 2,500,000 persons, the annual rate of mortality, which had declined from 13·7 to 12·8 in the three preceding weeks, was again 12·8 per 1000. The 307 deaths in Glasgow corresponded to an annual rate of 14·3 per 1000, and included 16 from measles, 9 from whooping-cough, and 1 each from diphtheria and infantile diarrhoea. The 87 deaths in Edinburgh were equal to a rate of 13·5 per 1000, and included 3 from whooping-cough and 1 each from measles, scarlet fever, and diphtheria.

Irish Towns.—The 123 deaths in Dublin corresponded to an annual rate of 15·8, or 0·6 per 1000 above that recorded in the previous week, and included 2 from infantile diarrhoea and 1 from diphtheria. The 98 deaths in Belfast were equal to a rate of 12·7 per 1000, and included 2 fatal cases of infantile diarrhoea.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.—Messrs. J. and A. Churchill announce the forthcoming appearance of the following new editions:—The third edition of "A Short Practice of Medicine," by Dr. R. A. Fleming; the second edition of "First Lines in Dispensing," by Mr. E. W. Lucas and Mr. H. B. Stevens; the sixth edition of "The Ophthalmoscope," by Mr. G. Hartridge; and a third and enlarged edition of "Vicious Circles in Disease," by Dr. J. B. Hurry.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

COMPULSORY GREEK AT OXFORD?

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—At the third attempt in the course of the last 12 years, and after months of discussion, those resident members of the University who object to compulsory Greek have by an overwhelming vote in Congregation carried a statute to make Greek optional in the examinations leading to the B.A. degree.

But it is understood that the defenders of compulsory Greek intend to bring up their supporters from the country for the final voting in Convocation on Tuesday, June 17th, in the hope of throwing out the statute and maintaining compulsory Greek in Responsions.

May I, through your columns, appeal to Oxford medical graduates, of whatever opinion, not to leave the decision to one class of voters, but to make it more representative by coming up to register their votes in Convocation? Greek is already optional at Cambridge, and in the interests of the Oxford Medical School it is of great importance that our medical graduates should come to Oxford and personally record their opinion on this pressing question.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

E. W. AINLEY WALKER.

University College, Oxford, June 3rd, 1919.

THE ORIGIN OF LIFE: THE WORK OF THE LATE CHARLTON BASTIAN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have a deep and affectionate regard for the memory of my late master, Dr. Charlton Bastian, and although he never convinced me he was right in his conclusions on the "Origin of Life," I nevertheless have followed with interest the work of others who have repeated his experiments. His son, Surgeon-Commander W. Bastian, has been occupied with other more important matters during the last few years, and is therefore unaware of the fact that his father's work has not been forgotten and that more than one investigator has examined tubes prepared under conditions similar to those used by the late Dr. Bastian, only with more stringent precautions against accidental infection. That Sir Ronald Ross is also unaware of such researches is a surprise; one always had the idea that he knew everything. The work has been repeated by Professor Hewlett at King's College. I do not know that he has ever published his results; one usually fights shy of wasting printer's ink on negative findings. Another investigator has been Professor Benjamin Moore, F.R.S. He described his results at the meeting of the British Association in Australia in 1914, and the only record I can find of this in print is the title of his communication in the British Association Reports for that year. He did find some curious precipitation structures which simulated organic growths, and exhibited lantern-slide photographs of them. If he ever published this in extenso I feel quite sure he would be only too happy to give Surgeon-Commander Bastian the reference. Then at Cambridge similar work has been carried out by Mr. H. Onslow, under the guidance of Professor F. G. Hopkins, F.R.S. He published a preliminary account of his negative results in *Nature* (1917, vol. xcvi., p. 489), and in an abstract I made of this paper I ventured to say, "This work settles the question of spontaneous generation (in Dr. Bastian's sense) once and for all." Onslow's full paper is published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society (1918, vol. xc. B, p. 266). The most recent paper which has appeared on the subject is by A. L. Herrera; it is published in *Comptes Rendus* (1919, vol. clxviii., p. 1015). It deals with the curious imitations of living structures which were noted by Moore. Herrera terms them "pseudo-amœbæ." I have dim recollections of still other papers during the last few years, but what I have said is sufficient to convince the readers of THE LANCET that scientific men have the "open mind" for which Surgeon-Commander Bastian pleads and that his father's work has not been ignored.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

W. D. HALLIBURTON.

King's College, London, W.C., May 31st, 1919.