

and help them during this temporary crisis. We have exhausted all the regular methods of obtaining resident doctors, and unless we can procure such help we shall be compelled to close a large part of the establishment, which at the present time would be a great calamity for the sick children of this neighbourhood.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

W. M. WILCOX,
Secretary.

Shadwell, E., Feb. 1st, 1915.

THE BELGIAN STUDENT AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The medical profession, generous as ever, has supplied me with enough copies of "Gray's Anatomy" to satisfy the present needs of the Belgian students at Cambridge. The publisher and editor have increased my sense of gratitude by presenting some copies of the new edition.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

A. E. SHIPLEY.

Christ's College Lodge, Cambridge, Feb. 3rd, 1915.

FUEL SUPPLIES IN WAR TIME.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following two paragraphs from the current press deserve to be noted by all interested in the use of fuel, whether in the domestic grate, the steam boiler, or the factory furnace:—

Threatened Coal Famine in the Midlands.—Birmingham and the Midlands generally are threatened with a coal famine. Not only are householders menaced but manufacturers cannot obtain regular supplies, and if the present scarcity continues some of them will have to close down. A variety of causes have contributed to this, the most important of which probably is the deficiency of miners owing to enlistment.

Amsterdam, Jan. 28th.—An order to economise coal has been issued by the German railway administration at Essen. It has further been officially pointed out to housewives that coke is a much cheaper form of fuel than coal and gives a better heat.

Here is a point certainly where we may well learn from the enemy. It cannot be too widely known—not only by housewives but by factory managers and other large users of fuel—that there are in many districts full stocks of coke; that it is, at the same price per ton as coal, a much cheaper form of fuel, as a much larger percentage of its weight is readily combustible material; that in kitchen ranges "broken" coke is particularly useful; and that recent experiments have demonstrated that coke can be advantageously employed for steam raising with but slight variations in the furnace arrangements. It is therefore to the advantage both of the community and of the individual at the same time that the fullest possible use should be made of our coke supplies.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Feb. 2nd, 1915. A STUDENT OF FUEL ECONOMICS.

The National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality and the Welfare of Infancy has arranged for an advanced course of lectures on infant care, to be delivered at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole-street, at 5.30 P.M. on Mondays in February, March, and April. The lectures are for voluntary health workers, mothers, and nurses; arrangements will be made for consultations at selected centres, and those successful at an examination to be held at the close of the course will receive a certificate. All particulars can be obtained from Miss Halford, 4, Tavistock-square, London, W.C.

THE BELGIAN DOCTORS' AND PHARMACISTS' RELIEF FUND.

A MEETING of the Central Executive Committee was held on Jan. 28th at the offices of the British Medical Association, when Sir Rickman Godlee and Mr. Meredith Townsend announced the despatch of the first box of instruments to Brussels. The box was delivered to the International Commission for Relief in Belgium at the Tunnel Wharf, Rotherhithe, and a Courier of the International Fund has taken charge of a letter to the Belgium Medical Committee in Brussels advising that Committee of the contents of the box and asking for reply as to whether similar consignments will be useful.

The question of providing clothes for the Belgian refugee doctors and pharmacists and their dependents was discussed at some length, and it was decided that attempts should be made to organise assistance in this direction. Certain steps have been taken; and those having wearing apparel in good condition are asked to communicate with Dr. Clément Philippe, 3, Hyde Park-street, London, W., where prepaid parcels may be sent. A voluntary group of sympathisers will assist in the distribution.

The payment of the fees for registration of the Belgian refugee doctors now to be admitted to the British roll of practice in this country was considered, but the Committee, speaking generally, did not consider that the Fund should pay these fees, because there seemed to be a discretionary power with the General Medical Council to reduce or remit them. A communication to this effect was made through the chairman of the Committee to the President of the General Medical Council.

PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY.

In the provinces great activity is being shown. A large meeting is being organised at Newcastle-on-Tyne by the local leaders of the medical profession; this meeting will be addressed by Professor Jacobs on Feb. 17th.

The University of Sheffield, the Sheffield Medico-Chirurgical Society, and the Sheffield Division of the British Medical Association having called a general meeting of the medical profession in Sheffield and the district to discuss the objects of the Fund, a committee was formed consisting of the following: Professor R. J. Pye-Smith, Professor R. Favell, Professor Sinclair White, Professor D. Burgess, Professor H. R. Dean, Dr. Sophia Witts, Dr. A. J. Hall, Mr. G. Wilkinson, Mr. Graham Simpson, Dr. A. G. Yates, Dr. H. Leader, Dr. A. W. Forrest, Dr. A. Forbes, Dr. R. Gordon, Mr. W. Longbottom, Dr. E. Hargreaves, Dr. C. Wiseman, Dr. J. Stokes, and Dr. R. W. Innes Smith. Dr. A. E. Naish, Westholme, 5, Clarkehouse-road, Sheffield, is acting as honorary secretary and treasurer to the Fund. A resolution was passed to instruct the committee to find out what offers of hospitality to refugees there might be from doctors in the district. Donations to the amount of £141 15s. were promised at the meeting.

From Birmingham a further list of subscriptions from both doctors and pharmacists has been received, and the Exeter Division of the British Medical Association (honorary secretary and treasurer, Mr. A. C. Roper, The Shrubbery, Exeter) makes a good first appearance. Both these local funds are still open.

In Manchester the movement will soon take force, as a strong local committee is being formed.