LEADLESS CERAMIC ENAMELS.

To the Editors of the Lancet.

Sirs,—On Nov. 19th, 1898, at page 1338, and again on Jan. 7th, 1899, at page 48, you were kind enough to notice and to insert the following extracts from my article on leadless glasses, and as you have referred to the recent Parliamentary debate on lead poisoning I should like to draw your attention to the following:

Sir William Broadbent... 20 0
Sir D. Douglas-World... 10 10
Dr. Church... 10 10
Dr. Bartlett... 10 10
Mr. Alfred Wickett... 5 0
Mr. T. T. Rutlin... 5 0
Mr. Barlow... 5 0
Mrs. Johnson... 1 0
Mrs. Fletcher... 1 0

I append a first list of subscriptions. Cheques or postal orders should be made out to Mrs. Meredith, and towards this the Committee of the R.A.M.C. have received £125, and I now venture to appeal to the medical profession to make up the amount required (£275).

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

CAROLINE S. MEREDITH.

21, Manchester-square, W., July 23rd, 1900.

WM. J. FURNIVAL.

Graville-terrace, Stone, Staffs, July 17th, 1900.

A MEMORIAL TO THE MILITARY AND CIVIL MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

To the Editors of the Lancet.

Sirs,—The Princess Christian Convalescent Homes for Soldiers and Sailors, now in course of erection at Bisley, will soon be available for use. Many of the beds have already been endowed. The Queen has given two beds, the Duke and Duchess of York one bed each, the Princess Christian one for the King's Royal Rifles, and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein and Princess Arlberl of Aalst one bed for a "green-jacket," as Princess Christian herself has informed me that a bed should be endowed for the sole use of the non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Army Medical Corps. I proposed that the bed should be endowed as a memorial to the members of the medical profession, both military and civil, who have lost their lives in the war in South Africa. The ready response which I have received from a few friends to whom I applied privately, encourages me to hope that the scheme will commend itself to the medical profession generally. The amount required for the permanent endowment of a bed is £500, and towards this the Committee of the R.A.M.C. has voted £200. From other sources I have received £60, and I propose to devote the money received to the task of bringing the medical profession to make up the amount required (£275). I append a list of subscriptions.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

O. POLISHILL TURNER.

Hatton, near Warwick, July 23rd, 1900.

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480 cases have been treated with the serum, and 462 cases have become their controls, under ordinary treatment:—

<table>
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<th>Died</th>
<th>Recovered</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Percent. of moribund. recovery.</th>
<th>Serum cases</th>
<th>Control cases</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>480</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>39.50</td>
<td>19.67</td>
<td>47.62</td>
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<td></td>
<td>462</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>59.08</td>
<td>40.92</td>
<td>14.93</td>
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The serum cases show a recovery rate of 31.67 per cent., whereas the controls have a rate of 29.42 per cent., a difference of 2.25 per cent., or 7.63 per cent., in favor of the serum. But the above results are not strictly accurate, and have been rendered fallacious by the undue preponderance of moribunds and convalescents in each series. The anticipations at the beginning of the experiment that the equalizing of these has not been realised in actual practice and thus an element of error has been introduced into the statistics. The 480 serum cases were found to include 139 moribunds and 28 convalescents, whereas the controls had 127 moribunds and 25 convalescents. Now when the former had an advantage over the latter of six less moribunds, whereas the latter were better off in convalescents by 10. Hence for a strictly accurate comparison, the only course open is to eliminate all the moribunds and all the convalescents from either series, and then deduce results from those remaining. If that is done, the results stand as below.

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</table>

The percentage of recovery stands thus at 39.69 per cent. for the serum cases, and 20.21 for the controls, a difference of 19.08 per cent. in favour of serum. These results clearly indicate the value of serum treatment in those cases that are really acute and fit for treatment, and show that in these it is possible to very nearly double the recoveries by the use of serum. These differences in the percentages do, however, show the full value of the serum treatment, and that could only be arrived at by following the method adopted by Professor Haffkine in determining the life-saving value of his prophylactic inoculation. The serum treatment is based on calculating the relative ratios of mortality amongst the inoculated and non-inoculated, and if the same system be adopted for the serum treatment the ratio of recovery in the serum cases as to control cases would be 1 of control to 1·55 of serum in all cases, and 1 to 1·96 when the moribunds and convalescents are excluded from both the series. Or to put it in another way, if 100 cases out of a given number recover under ordinary treatment the same number if treated with the serum would give 155 recoveries. And therefore the percentage of recovery is enhanced in one case by 55 per cent. and by 96 per cent. in the other.

These, Sirs, are the plain and unvarnished facts with regard to the serum treatment. They are the results of the experiment of plague, and they place before the reader the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. We have no reason to be dissatisfied with the progress made within two years of its application. Neither the mode of its preparation nor its application at the bedside has yet been finalised and it is only by further research, experiment, and prolonged clinical observation that we shall be enabled to place it on a proper basis. So far as we have gone we have been able to prove that the serum treatment is the only treatment that can in any way appreciably reduce the high mortality of plague and we abide by our experience. When the diphtheria antitoxin required more than a decade for its perfection is it not reasonable that sufficient time should be allowed for the fullest investigation of a serum against a much more rapidly fatal and more deadly disease like plague? And is it demanding too much of special correspondents to ask them to withhold awhile their obiter dicta and let those best conversant with the subject reach their goal, which has but one and only aim in view—The saving of human life? I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

N. H. CHOKSY, M.D.

Chief Medical Officer, Arthur-road Hospital.

BOMBAY, JULY 7TH, 1900.

* "RODENT CANCER OF THE CORNEA."

To the Editors of the LANCET.

SIRS,—The interesting case published under the above title by Mr. Sydney Stephenson in the LANCET of July 21st...