EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

"THE BAR OF ISIS."

(To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.)

SIR,—May I be allowed to remark regarding the review of the book bearing the title above, which appeared in your columns of December 26, that the respect for authority is fortunately giving place to research for the truth of the authority, and unless the truth substantiates the authority, the latter becomes null and void. The authority for the statement that "fertilisation is fermentation" is based upon the well-known and recognised scientific data of Professor Jacques Loeb and other leading biologists on the general chemistry of life phenomena. Thus "the egg is not the bearer of the form of the full-grown animal, but of certain chemical substances, especially of ferments . . . the subsequent physical changes which the material undergoes will be under the influence of the catalytic agencies of both the egg and the spermatozoon." Numberless experiments in artificial parthenogenesis testify to this assertion. The gynaecologist who still regards *vernix caseosa* as a "natural protective and lubricant" is indeed a believer in "old fables," long discarded as untenable by those who will have the truth and nothing but the truth. Bayer's "Modern Researches" in this matter are endorsed by hundreds of medical men and women in this country and America; and so important to the future welfare of the race is considered the promulgation of the various reforms advocated in "The Bar of Isis," that already an international league is being formed for that end whose members hail from all parts of the world, and who are determined that the Law of the Mother shall prevail and in time redeem diseased humanity.

Yours faithfully,

THE AUTHOR OF "THE BAR OF ISIS."

* * The notice referred to was hardly in the nature of a review, and our correspondent does not better her case much. As was pointed out, to hoist up a single conjecture into the position of an absolute law is always mischievous, and a thing avoided in competent summaries of scientific matters. As to the "hundreds of medical men and women" who believe that the *vernix caseosa*, for the routine removal of which every nursing manual gives directions, is a pathological product caused by sexual intercourse in excess of that necessary for procreation, and giving rise to serious infantile complaints—for these ladies and gentlemen (if engaged in much midwifery practice), the time must indeed seem out of joint. But we somehow doubt whether this latest of innumerable "leagues" will do much towards setting it right.—EDITOR, THE HOSPITAL.

THE MEDICAL REGISTER.

DEAR SIR,—A very searching inquiry is now being made as to the accuracy of all names and addresses on the Medical Register under the following Section (XIV.) of the Medical Act, 1858:

XIV. *It shall be the duty of the Registrars to keep their respective Registers correct in accordance with the provisions of this Act, and the Orders and Regulations of the General Council, and to erase the names of all registered persons who shall have died, and shall from time to time make the necessary alterations in the addresses or qualifications of the persons registered under this Act; and to enable the respective Registrars duly to fulfil the duties imposed upon them it shall be lawful for the Registrar to write a letter to any registered person, addressed to him according to his address on the Register, to inquire whether he has*

ceased to practise, or has changed his residence, and if no answer shall be returned to such letter within the period of six months from the sending of the letter it shall be lawful to erase the name of such person from the register; provided always that the same may be restored by direction of the General Council should they think fit to make an order to that effect.

On February 1 a circular of inquiry was posted to every registered practitioner, *excepting only* officers of the Navy, Army, and Indian Medical Services whose names appear in the Navy and Army Lists.

It is of vital importance to all registered practitioners who have not received an inquiry in course of post that they should immediately communicate with this office, as in the event of no communication being received from them, it will be *lawful to erase their names from the Register*, according to the Act, and then very serious disabilities will be incurred.

Yours faithfully,

H. E. ALLEN, Registrar.

General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom, 299 Oxford Street, London, W.

February 3, 1909.

AUSTRALIA FOR THE SONS OF PROFESSIONAL MEN.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—Since my letters dealing with the opportunities offered by Australia to the sons of professional men have appeared in your columns, I have received a large number of communications from doctors, lawyers, chemists, etc., who are anxious to send their sons to Australia and enter them at one of the agricultural colleges here or get them straight on to a farm. So great has this response been that I have decided to attend the next annual meeting of the British Medical Association at Belfast and seek there an opportunity of bringing the advantages of land settlement in Australia before the members of the Association who may be interested in the subject. I hope to be in London by May, and letters addressed to me at the Royal Colonial Institute, Northumberland Avenue, W.C., will be promptly attended to. In the meantime, illustrated prospectuses of the various agricultural colleges can be obtained by application to Captain Collins, Commonwealth Offices, Victoria Street, S.W., and if any gentlemen decide to send their sons out at once so as to arrive here in April or May, which is a favourable time of the year for doing so, I should be much obliged if they would notify this to the Secretary of the Immigration League of Australasia, 14 Moore Street, Sydney. At several of the colleges in New South Wales the fees for board and tuition are to be reduced to £10 or £12 per annum, which should bring this invaluable course of agricultural training within the reach of everyone. I should again like to emphasise the fact that the accommodation and food at these institutions are excellent, and that a thorough scientific and practical education in all the branches of farming, dairying, stock-raising, and fruit-growing is given. But a perusal of one of the prospectuses will be far more convincing with regard to this than anything I can write. And I am certain that once their sons are settled in Australia, many professional men will seriously consider the idea of following them out here, and of spending the remainder of their days in the glorious climate of this country, where judicious investment of money in town and country lands can often double and treble one's capital in a few years.

Yours etc.,

RICHARD ARTHUR, M.D.

President, Immigration League of Australasia.

Sydney, December 28.