

composed, in order to render it opaque instead of transparent. For this lead oxide has been used to some extent, particularly because it helps to produce an easily fusible product. Lead enamels, like lead glasses in general, offer a poor resistance to chemicals, and are quite readily attacked even by substances which have no action whatever on ordinary glasses which contain no lead. The government experts now venture the statement that the use of lead compounds for these purposes, and of lead oxide for producing an opaque appearance, fortunately is fast being discontinued in the manufacture of enamelware and cooking utensils on account of the possible danger of lead poisoning, since the lead in this form is easily dissolved by dilute acids, like vinegar and the acids of fruit juices. With regard to possible dangers from the use of antimony salts to impart desired tints to some kinds of enamel, it is said that preliminary experiments, made in the Department of Home Economics of the University of Illinois, apparently showed that small amounts of antimony compounds were extracted when dilute solutions of organic acids were cooked in some of the cheaper grades of enamelware. It is now possible, however, to secure enamelware utensils which, according to the manufacturers' labels, are free from antimony compounds.—*J.A.M.A.*

### THE SIZE OF THE NEW ARMY

*To the Editor of The Lancet.*

SIR,—When we read in the newspapers that the British army is now 4,000,000 men, and remember that before the war it was about 805,000, we are a little at a loss for appreciating the comparison. The following method may help us to realize what this increase means. There are 810,697 words in the Bible, and we had about that number of soldiers. There are also 3,566,480 letters in the Bible, and we can now consider every letter as a soldier instead of every word as heretofore. Also, we may consider that the first letter of every three verses is a medical man in the R.A.M.C., for there are about 10,000 medical officers now (vide "Strength of the Royal Army Medical Corps," *The Lancet*, November 20th, 1915, p. 1167), and there are 31,173 verses in the Bible. To take a Bible and turn over its leaves and realize that every single letter is a soldier in our army produces an impressive feeling of what fighting means.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

February 14th, 1916.

ACCOUNTANT.