

Similarly, workmen must not be supplied with albumen proportionately to the work they have to do for the moment, but rather proportionately to the mass of the muscle and the possible maximum of work in them. The maximum amount of work to be got out of a man corresponds therefore to the decomposition of albumen and the quantity of it required.

The decomposition of albumen depends therefore on the mass of muscle to be nourished, and not directly from the work which is rather determined by the quantity of muscle. But in the same individual the decomposition of non-nitrogenous matter is dependent on the temporary amount of work doing. The man experimented on by Von Pettenkofer and Voit used up, with the same dietary, 101 grammes more fat at work than at rest.

The figures given above refer to moderate work. With excessive work the albumen may rise to 150 grammes, and the quantity of non-nitrogenous food called for still more.—*The Doctor.*

IS ENTERIC FEVER SPONTANEOUSLY GENERATED.

By R. BRUCE LOW, M.D., Medical Officer of Health.

In answer to this query, and acting on the advice given by Sir William Jenner, quoted by Dr. Fox in the *Journal* of March 25th, that "the best mode of settling this question is to thoroughly scrutinize every isolated case that occurs in out-of-the-way country places." I submit two groups of isolated cases which occurred in my out-of-the-way country district. The first group consisted of four cases, all occurring in the same house, about the same time. The house itself was a moderately large one for a cottager, consisting of four fair-sized rooms. The family consisted of four persons, three adults and a boy of four years. The situation of the house was most peculiar. It was built on a hill-side, facing the junction of four wide valleys; a more exposed situation could hardly be imagined. Above the house were miles of moorland; the house was some distance from any high road, and altogether so far out-of-the-way, that it was impossible that any tramp infected with enteric fever could have found out the house, far less the privy which turned out to be the source of the mischief. The father of the family was the first victim; within a week his wife was taken ill; in another week the daughter; and, finally, a married daughter, who had come to nurse them,