The present writers cannot confirm this view. In the samples they examined the toxicity, indeed, was low, but on the other hand, the anaesthetic action was correspondingly low. Both effects agreed satisfactorily with the proportion of cocaine chemically recoverable from the solution. The writers furthermore declared that the cocaine is not, as claimed, in colloidal solution, as shown by the fact that a sample filtered through a wet collodion membrane under a pressure of about 25 cm. of mercury. On the other hand, the colouring matter of the product was held back by the membrane, so that the resulting filtrate was colourless. The authors reached the following conclusions:—1. The local anaesthetic action of three samples of "collosol" cocaine corresponded roughly with that of a 0.25 per cent. solution of pure cocaine. In two other samples it was much lower. 2. The toxicity of the three better samples was about one quarter of that of 1 per cent. of cocaine. 3. The quantity of cocaine chemically recoverable from each of the three samples was approximately 0·24 per cent. instead of 1 per cent. as indicated. 4. The cocaine which was present passed freely through a collodion membrane, and was therefore not in colloidal solution. Meanwhile the matter is not at an end. A letter appeared in the Lancet of December 15 last from Mr. Lewis Stroud, M.A., of the Crookes Laboratories, in which several of the statements of Dr. Dale and his colleagues are traversed.

The Lucien Howe Prize Fund

The Committee in charge of the Lucien Howe Prize Fund of the Medical Society of the State of New York suggests the following as suitable subjects for essayists:—

1. Renal permeability; its relation to the pathology and prognosis of diseases of the eye.

2. Describe the ocular changes, diagnosis, etc., of general paresis and tabes dorsalis, including peripheral and central lesions and the pathological conditions peculiar to each—with differentiation from lesions found in cerebro-spinal syphilis.

3. Give the effects of shell shock upon the optic nerve, as occurring in the present war.

The prize fund amounts to 100 dollars. Essays must be in the hands of Dr. Albert Vander Veer, chairman of the committee, at 28, Eagle-street, Albany, N.Y., not later than April 15, 1918.

"Shell Shock"

Among the after-war problems presented to ophthalmic surgeons will be one which deals with army pensioners who have suffered or