Correspondence

"NON-REVERSAL OF THE JEJUNUM" METHOD OF PERFORMING GASTRO-ENTEROSTOMY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS."

SIR,—In an address by Mr. Moynihan, published in the British Medical Journal of May 9th, 1908, he draws attention to what he considers to be a fallacy in Dr. W. J. Mayo's reasoning in his advocacy of the "non-reversal of the jejunum" method of performing gastro-enterostomy. A recent case in which I performed this operation according to Dr. Mayo's method lends support to Mr. Moynihan's views.

The patient died on the fourth day after the operation, and, at the post-mortem examination, it was found that the distal limb of the jejunum, instead of passing direct to the left abdominal fossa, as it had done on completion of the anastomosis, was directed forward and to the right. This struck me at the time as being a remarkable condition, and as being possibly explicable on the supposition that it was an autogenous reproduction of iso-peristalsis (the pylorus was much stenosed). In this case the position of the patient was not apparently responsible for the direction of the jejunum, as the dorsal semi-recumbent position had been maintained until death. Vomiting ceased entirely after the operation, and there was no discoverable obstruction in the anastomosis or rotation of the jejunum on its longitudinal axis.

Mr. Moynihan now attaches the bowel in the vertical plane, whereas Mr. Mayo Robson, according to his article in the recently published third volume of "Keen's Surgery," makes the attachment transversely (with "reversal" of the jejunum). Probably the exact direction of the stoma is quite unimportant.

Woolwich,
May 14th, 1908.

I am, &c.,
R. W. Wright,
Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C.

THE CAUSATION OF TWINS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS."

SIR,—There has come to my knowledge, in regard to a certain man whose wife consistently presents him with twins, information which seems to upset the received ideas as to the respective parts of the male and female in the perpetuation of species; for we generally consider the ovum to be the future individual, and look upon the male secretion as merely a fertilising agent. The text-books show us pictures of