Correspondence

spermatozoa in swarms proceeding on their fertilising errand. The same text-books tell us that spermatozoa with two heads are sometimes seen. In the particular man now under discussion the semen contains none but two-headed spermatozoa. The conclusion is inevitable—the twin spermatozoon produces twin human beings.

The subject is a difficult one to pursue, but I hope someone may be able to ascertain whether the case here dealt with is one of mere coincidence.

In the meantime, one cannot help thinking that the male will prove to play a more important part in the production of offspring than has hitherto been assigned to him—that the female is not entitled to the all-important position with which she is often credited. This aspect of the matter has a bearing on questions of heredity.

Rawal Pindi,  
April 22nd, 1908.

F. Smith,  
Major, R.A.M.C.

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THE TREATMENT OF SCABIES BY BALSAM OF PERU.

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

Sir,—The experiences of Lieutenant W. G. Avis are very interesting, but are so markedly different from ours at the station, that I hope other officers will kindly send theirs to the Journal. Since its introduction here by Lieutenant-Colonel S. C. B. Robinson, we have never seen the slightest reason for giving it up, or for returning to the old unsatisfactory treatment by sulphur ointment.

We have had several new commanding officers since it was started, and they have all been speedily convinced of the virtues of the balsam treatment. If properly carried out, the cure is rapid and permanent; I have never found eczema produced by it, and neglected cases in which there was pustular eczema present as a complication of the scabies, have never been made worse.

Colchester,  
June 16th, 1908.

F. J. W. Porter,  
Major, R.A.M.C.