ARTIFICIALLY PRODUCED CARDIAC BRUITS.

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

Sir,—With reference to recent communications on the above subject from Captain Harding and Captain Davy, it may be of interest to note that whilst working in the children's department at St. Thomas's Hospital some years ago, I frequently had pointed out to me a "retraction murmur," systolic in time, heard over the manubrium, produced by throwing the head and shoulders backwards. It was thought to be possibly caused by the pressure of tuberculous mediastinal glands upon one of the large venous trunks. Since that time I have noted the same sign in young children whom I considered quite healthy.

For a period of some months about three years ago, I had the opportunity of examining all cases of invalids for cardiac trouble arriving at Netley, and on two occasions I noted "retraction murmur" against cases with systolic murmur heard over the manubrium, audible only when the head and shoulders were thrown back, much in the position of holding up the shirt to expose the chest for examination, a position that I have often seen used. In my private note-book I have marked these cases as "retraction murmurs," thinking that they were possibly analogous to the retraction murmur of children. I have failed, in these cases of soldiers, to detect any pulmonary mischief that might cause enlargement of the mediastinal glands.

It would be interesting to know if retraction of the head and shoulders can, by extension on the trachea and bronchus, cause any kinking of the pulmonary artery, and thus produce this sign which might be mistaken for an indication of serious disease.

I am, &c.

EDWARD L. MOSS,

October 28th, 1908.

Lieutenant R.A.M.C.