LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HEIMLICH MANOEUVRE

SIR — I was interested to read your note to Maj J P Hindley's article in the October 1978 number of the Journal (J. roy. Army med. Cps. 1978. 124, 159-162) in which you say that the teaching method (Heimlich Manoeuvre) is to be reviewed by the AMS First Aid Training Committee before deciding to teach it to less trained First Aiders. The same interest appears to have stimulated the Editor of the British Journal of Sexual Medicine into taking time off to write in lighter vein in another publication.¹

In his article Maj Hindley does not, however, make any mention of the controversy which has surrounded this manoeuvre since it was first published in 1975 and which has inhibited some of the larger civilian first aid training organisations in the United States of America and the United Kingdom from adopting the manoeuvre as a standard procedure.

Ruben and MacNaughton have recently published a paper² comparing the efficiency of the manoeuvre with that of other first-aid measures used in the treatment of food-choking and I would commend this to the attention of the AMS First Aid Training Committee. The concluding sentences read as follows:— “The greater the mass of the obstructing piece the greater will be the effect of shaking and gravity, and that produced by blows on the back applied with the patient hanging head downwards. As this method at the same time gives the highest peak pressures, it appears to be the method most likely to relieve a food obstruction of the airway”.

I am, etc.

R J GRAY

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London SW1X 7EJ

REFERENCES
1. TRIMMER, E J (1979), Medical News 11, No. 5, 15

IMPRESSIONS OF PAKLIIHAWA

SIR—I read with interest Capt J W Lowe's article Impressions of Paklahawa in the February 1979 number of the Journal (Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps. 1979. 125, 39-41). This eloquently described the typical work load of the single handed doctor which has existed at the Medical Reception Station (MRS) Paklihawa since the camp was first opened. However, Capt Lowe failed to men-
tion that the camp at Paklihawa was due to close in December 1978. When the new camp at Pokhara opens, there will be no requirement for a MRS. The end of an era has come and the chance for RAMC doctors to work for a short time at this recruiting camp will no longer be there, though the British Military Hospital Dharan will continue to flourish.

I would like to correct one small error in Capt Lowe’s article. I had the honour to be the last RAMC medical officer in charge of the MRS Paklihawa and Dr Vishnu Rajouria actually took over the appointment in January 1963. In recognition of 15 years of devoted service to Gurkha soldiers and their families, ex-servicemen and local civilians he was made an Honorary Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1977. I am sure that all RAMC Medical Officers who have worked with him will join me in wishing him all good fortune for the future.

I am, etc.,

G. SOMERVILLE.

Depot Prince of Wales’ Division,
Crickhowell,
Powys, N Wales.
8 May 1979.

HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS

The following officers have been elected to Fellowship of the Faculty of Community Medicine—

Maj Gen T S Hart, QHP, MB, BS, MFCM, DPH, DTM&H, Brig D W Bray, QHS, MB, BS, MFCM, DTM&H, Col R L Bell, MFCM, DPH, DIH, DTM&H, Col D E Worsley, MB, ChB, MFCM, DPH, DIH, DTM&H.

Lt Col P J Beale, MB, BChir, MRCP, DTM&H, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (London).

Lt Col P Abraham, MA, MRCPsych, MRCS, LRCP, DTM&H, DPM, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

FRCS (Ed) MAJ R J M MacDONALD, MB, ChB.
FRCS (Gen Surg) CAPT A F JEFFERIS, MB, BChir.
MRCP CAPT J W LOWE, MB, BS.
MRCGP MAJ R A BENCINI, MD, DCH.
DRCOG CAPT P M G WILLIAMS, MB, ChB, CAPT (Miss) P HICKS, MB, ChB.
DMRD MAJ D K GRIEVE, MB, BS, MRCS, LRCP, DCH.