Correspondence

(4) The bacillus found in sparrows gives all the cultural characteristics of B. cloaca (Jordan), a member of the proteus group.

(5) The serum of rabbits injected with the bacillus found in the sparrows will agglutinate the homologous organism in dilutions as high as 1 in 50,000.

Correspondence.

THE "TRAITEMENT À VIDE" OF ENTERIC FEVER.

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

Sir,—With regard to Lieutenant-Colonel Cree's "vigorously protest" in the August number of the JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS against a recent note by me on the "Traitement à vide," I wish to state that my article was written in the hope that it would elicit from those who had tried the treatment more thoroughly than myself the reasons why my results—though well below the average as far as fatalities are concerned—were impaired by an abnormal number of relapses. Dr. Ewart in his notes on my article has given the reason; i.e., I had failed to realise the importance of combining the local treatment of the intestinal ulcers with his method of "alimentation by inbibition." The art of medicine is largely learnt from our failures; and I submit that a medical man who is bold enough to record his lack of success in a special line of treatment should not be held up to scorn. Now that I am convinced of the cause of my non-success there is no firmer believer in the efficacy of the "Traitement à vide" than myself; in fact, I carry it out in all cases of intestinal ulceration apart from enteric.

In proof of this I would add that I have very recently read before the Orange River Colony Medical Society a paper on Dr. Ewart's method; and have had the honour of being requested to allow it to be published in their Transactions.

Tempe,
August 29th, 1909.

H. P. JOHNSON,
Major, R.A.M.C.

DISPOSAL OF PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM MALARIA.

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

Sir,—In answer to Colonel Anderson's letter which appeared in the August number of the JOURNAL I give an expression of opinion.

The majority of malarial cases do well and improve in the hills. The climate of the low-lying hill stations (India) is ideal during the winter
months, and far better for most classes of invalids than the climate of the English winter.

A patient suffering from the complication of symptoms described by Colonel Anderson should be invalided home, for discharge from the Service as permanently unfit—as in all probability he would never again make an efficient soldier. Such cases should not be invalided to the hills.

Mussorie,
September 14th, 1909.

I am, &c.,

Owen E. P. Lloyd,
Colonel.