Correspondence.

INVALIDING FROM EAR DISEASES.

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

Dear Sir,—I am very glad to see attention drawn to this subject by Lieutenant-Colonel Cottell; but I should venture to think that a far larger percentage of his cases had ear disease on enlistment.

Careless recruiting is undoubtedly responsible in this particular direction for an enormous amount of invaliding and consequent expense to the public.

It is quite possible for an occasional case to escape the notice of hard-worked recruiting officers, but if medical officers in charge of depots were required to examine by speculum and record the condition of each ear on the medical history sheet as soon as the recruit arrived, the bulk of these cases could be detected and got rid of at once. The services of an aural expert should not be required in the great majority of cases.

All cases of chronic middle ear disease should be regarded as "lame ducks," and should be ruthlessly got rid of. To keep such cases in the Service, and especially to send them abroad or on service, is bound to cause additional trouble and expense.

They may be fit for the Army Reserve for home defence, but for no other purpose.

Except for acute exacerbations, I do not think it advisable to operate, and for obvious reasons.

I am, &c.,

May 10th, 1910.

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

A PHARMACOPEIA FOR MILITARY HOSPITALS.

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

Sir,—Seeing that all civil hospitals of any size have their own pharmacopoeias, might I suggest that the time has arrived when one should be compiled for use in military hospitals? At the present moment all that exists in this direction is a list (often partly obliterated by age and dirt) in each dispensary, and few officers know what they are prescribing when ordering mist. expect., or any other stock mixture.

Perhaps some of our medical specialists could be formed into a small committee and between them compose an Army Medical Pharmacopoeia which all officers should be ordered to adhere to when prescribing. In
addition to formulae for men, women, and children, useful appendices might be added containing information about mercurial cream, various sera, diet scales, diet sheets, medical history sheets, invaliding documents, contents of medical companions, surgical haversacks, and panniers, and many other small matters of interest. I am sure most medical officers, and dispensers especially, would welcome such a book.

I am, &c., &c.,

F. J. WADE-BROWN,
Major R.A.M.C.

Cork District.

April 22nd, 1910.