Correspondence

Clothing.—An increased allowance of bedding was sanctioned.

Underclothes.—Each man will in future receive three shirts, three pairs drawers, three handkerchiefs, three pairs socks, and two towels. The money allowance for maintenance of boots has been increased to five times the former rate.

Correspondence.

FATAL COCAINE POISONING.

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

DEAR SIR,—Nearly eighteen years ago I saw a death at the Royal Infirmary, Dublin, after painting the raw surfaces resulting from removal of tonsils; 20 per cent. solution of the drug was used.

I have always heard that the urethral mucous membrane absorbed cocaine with great rapidity, and I should personally fear to use a stronger solution than 1 per cent. in this region.

I think the systematic use of adrenalin with cocaine is also desirable in order to retard absorption.

I am, &c.,

F. J. W. Porter,

May 5th, 1910.

Major R.A.M.C.

A PHARMACOPOEIA FOR MILITARY HOSPITALS.

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

DEAR SIR,—I think Major Wade-Brown, in his letter on this subject, makes a rather sweeping indictment of his fellow-officers when he says that few know what they are prescribing when ordering stock mixtures; but if he is correct, would a more extensive Pharmacopoeia for military hospitals tend towards a better acquaintance? So long as our dispensers are required to pass an examination which is recognised by the Pharmaceutical Society, I think it would be a great pity to limit the scope of our officers in writing prescriptions, and of our compounders in making them up.

I have had a long experience of these examinations, and have noticed a lamentable ineptitude in the manufacture of pills, which I can only attribute to the vogue for ‘tabloids’ which has sprung up of late years.

Our officers have not only to treat soldiers, they have also to attend officers, their wives and families, and nothing looks so bad as ordering a stock mixture for these patients.

With regard to the latter part of his suggestion, to add appendices on various subjects; I do not think he has mentioned one which any