CONTINUED FEVERS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

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

SIR,—The following case is of interest with reference to the question of the existence in South Africa of a continued fever which is not enteric fever, paratyphoid or Mediterranean fever:—

No. 7523 Private O., 2nd Hants Regiment, was admitted to hospital at Roberts' Heights in October, 1909, suffering from a continued fever which was diagnosed as enteric fever, but which presented peculiar characters. He had the profuse macular rash characteristic of the type of fever described by Brill in the American Journal of Medical Sciences, April, 1910. I described similar cases in a clinical note which appeared in the Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps for February, 1908. At that time I had not seen Brill's earlier papers, in which he described this disease as a peculiar form of paratyphoid, an opinion he has now abandoned.

While in hospital at Roberts' Heights, Private O.'s serum gave a "slight" positive reaction with Bacillus typhosus in 1/10 dilution in one hour; it failed to react with B. paratyphosus B. On February 20th, 1911, Private O. was admitted to hospital at Wynberg, showing the clinical signs and symptoms of enteric fever. A few rose spots were present. He appeared to be in the end of the second, or beginning of the third week of illness, though he had not previously reported sick. His serum, taken on February 22nd, failed to react with B. typhosus, though it reacted with B. paratyphosus B. in 1/6 dilution in half an hour. He was so ill that it was decided not to take blood from a vein for culture; no growth was obtained from blood taken from the finger. He had a succession of small hemorrhages from the bowel, and died of heart failure on February 25th.

At the post-mortem examination Peyer's patches were found ulcerated and sloughing, and the solitary follicles in the lower part of the small intestine swollen. From the appearance of the bowel the disease must have lasted at least two weeks. The spleen was much enlarged. No signs of a former affection of Peyer's patches were observed. The only evidence of any previous disease noticed was an old adhesion of the head of the pancreas to the duodenum.

I took cultures from the heart blood, gall bladder and spleen, and in each case recovered B. typhosus in pure culture. The cultures were made in ordinary peptone broth, on agar, and in sodium taurocholate peptone broth. The broth cultures were plated out on Fawcus-Conradi medium after incubation. Serum gave positive agglutination results in 1/6 dilution both with B. typhosus and B. paratyphosus B.

The case appears to be of interest, as tending to show that "Brill's
fever" is quite distinct from enteric fever. I should add that Private O. had never undergone anti-typhoid vaccination.

I am indebted to Major N. J. C. Rutherford, R.A.M.C., for the opportunity of seeing this case with him, and for information as to its clinical aspects.

Wynberg,  
March 29th, 1910.

J. G. McNAUGHT,  
Major R.A.M.C.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS COMPASSIONATE FUND.

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

Sr,—Last year you were kind enough to publish an article on the origin and present position of the various Corps Funds, which appeared in the issue of May, 1910.

This article was written with a view of affording information to all officers past and present, whether subscribers or not, regarding the funds connected with their own Corps, and it was hoped that, appearing shortly before the Annual Meeting, it might prove of general interest and perhaps stimulate interest in them.

In consequence of the lamented death of His late Majesty, the Dinner was of course abandoned, and the General Annual Meeting was unfortunately a small one. The account of the proceedings appeared in the Journal for July, 1910.

This year we shall no doubt have a record attendance, and I should be very much obliged if you could find space in the June number for a few additional notes as to the progress of the Compassionate Funds during the past year. I do not propose to recapitulate anything that has been said before. Those who are interested in the subject can refer to the article which appeared in the Journal for May, 1910, and the few points to which I should like to draw attention relate solely to our Compassionate Funds for ex-soldiers of the Corps, their widows and orphans, and for the education of their children.

On examining the accounts for last year which were printed in the Journal for February, 1911, it will appear that the amounts contributed by regimental institutes and canteens, &c., to the General Relief (Compassionate) Fund show a slight falling-off as compared with recent years, being only £339 4s. 10d. as against £376 5s. 8d. for 1909, and £372 3s. 5d. for 1908. This I think is to be regretted, especially as the expenditure, although carefully controlled by the committee, has a natural tendency steadily to increase. Thus in 1908 it was £389 14s.; in 1909 £402 2s. 11d., and last year £436 19s. 2d. Of this amount (last year) £146 14s. 8d. was for the education of orphan children of soldiers of the Corps, and I am sure that it will be agreed that money could not be better expended, but it must be remembered that the capital sum originally earmarked for education is being gradually spent in compliance with the instructions of