

Correspondence.

NOTES ON FRACTURE OF THE ASTRAGALUS.

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

SIR,—With reference to the Notes on "Fracture of the Astragalus" in this month's Journal, and the accompanying skiagram: surely the condition represented is one where the process of bone, the os trigonum, has remained throughout life as a distinct bone, instead of becoming attached to the astragalus. The condition, I believe, is a well-recognized one now, and is seen in skiagrams of ankles where there has been no injury.

I am, &c.,

T. S. COATES,

Captain, R.A.M.C.

LIFE OF JOHN HUNTER.

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

SIR,—There are a few mistakes in Major Howell's very interesting sketch of John Hunter, published in your last number, which I feel sure the author will pardon my pointing out in the interest of historic accuracy.

Hunter never was an Inspector General of Hospitals. On the death of Robert Adair, which occurred on March 16, 1790, Hunter was appointed Surgeon General and Inspector of Regimental Hospitals (notification in *London Gazette*, dated War Office, March 20, 1790). His previous commission was that of Assistant Surgeon General, not Deputy Surgeon General (notification in *London Gazette*, dated War Office, January 14, 1726). The title of Inspector General of Hospitals was first used on the appointment of Mr. Francis Knight, who succeeded Mr. John Rush as Inspector of Regimental Hospitals in 1801 (*Fifth Report of the Commissioners of Military Enquiry*, 1808, page 7).

Sir James M'Grigor was not our first Director General. Mr. John Weir, his immediate predecessor as head of the Medical Department, enjoyed the same designation from February 24, 1810 (*London Gazette*, February, 1810, No. 16345, p. 287).

I am, Sir, &c.,

W. JOHNSTON,

Colonel.

Newton Dee,

Murthle, Aberdeenshire,

August 22, 1912

ERRATUM.

In Colonel Johnston's letter on page 388, the date of the notification in the *London Gazette*, mentioned in the eleventh line, was incorrectly printed "1726" instead of "1786."