Correspondence

Voluntary Aid Detachments and the German Army Medical Service in War.—The official portion of Das Rote Kreuz of July 7, 1912, prints a summary of the conditions which must be fulfilled by Voluntary Aid Detachments wishing to be permitted to assist the Army Medical Service in War.

The principal conditions are:—

1. The detachment must agree to conform absolutely to the rules drawn up by the Central Red Cross Committee for all voluntary aid detachments.

2. The detachment must report the number of its members who are available for duty on mobilization. The minimum is:
   (a) Half the members must be willing to undertake voluntary aid work in the locality where they reside.
   (b) One-third of the members must be available for voluntary aid work in localities other than those in which they reside.

3. The detachment must assume the title "Voluntary Aid Detachment of (name of town or village)."

4. It must send in annually: (a) A copy of the rules; (b) a list of its members in the following form:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Member's name</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Place where military service was put in</th>
<th>State of health</th>
<th>Present military position, Reserve, Landwehr, Landsturm</th>
<th>On mobilization willing to serve (a) at home, (b) away from home</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Note.—Those willing to serve under (a) or (b) must be free from all military service or only belong to the Landsturm.

Any alterations in the detachment, e.g., amalgamation with another detachment, &c., must be reported.

C. E. P.

Correspondence.

FRACTURE OF THE ASTRAGALUS.

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

Sir,—If the author of the paper on "Fracture of the Astragalus" will look up Cunningham's (or any other recent book perhaps) "Anatomy," he will find described therein the os trigonum (tali). This is the bone he so well displays in his skiagram; there is no fracture of the astragalus shown in it; there is not even the semblance of fracture. Many others may have fallen into the same error. Quite recently a case, with skiagram, of the same condition, was sent to me as being one of fracture. In any collection of skiagrams of this region quite a number will be found showing this ossicle, which is a "variation," and not pathological.

Kasauli, September 24, 1912.

M. P. HOLT.