Correspondence.

AN INCIDENT OF 1780.

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

Sir,—In my article, concerning medical affairs during campaigns of 1760 to 1818, which appeared in the May, 1913, number of this JOURNAL, I find that a mis-statement was made which, for historical accuracy, calls for correction. In the affair of September 5, 1780, when Baillie’s force was cut up by Hyder Ali, it is stated that Colonel Baillie and Surgeon Wilson belonged to the 73rd Foot. As a matter of fact, both belonged to the 4th N.I. I find that Colonel Baillie died in prison in Seringsapatam, in 1797. I am indebted for the clue as to an inadvertent mis-statement by myself, concerning Baillie and Wilson, to Colonel Johnston, formerly of our service, who was attracted to the incident by a reference to the 73rd Foot, a regiment concerning whose records he is particularly interested and informed. In the original documents, in which quotations from Baillie’s letters appear, he is certainly described as of the 73rd, but how that record arose one cannot say. To those documents I owe the error in my article, which I now correct.

In the same article, p. 538, is a reference to the fact of Surgeon John Leyden being a poet. To Colonel Johnston, I am indebted for the following quotation from Scott’s “Lord of the Isles,” which may interest those inclined to literature:

"Scenes sung by him who sings no more,
His bright and brief career is o’er,
And mute his tuneful strains;
Quenched is his lamp of varied lore
That loved the light of song to pour;
A distant and a deadly shore
Has Leyden’s cold remains."

I am, &c,

Chirat,
July 23, 1913.

R. H. Firth,
Colonel.