Correspondence.

AMOUNT OF HYPOCHLOROUS ACID IN SOLUTION OF EUSOL.

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

SIR,—Our attention has been directed to an error in calculation which has appeared in the papers on eusol published from this department.

The amount of free hypochlorous acid in the solution of eusol made up according to our recommendations was stated to be approximately 0·5 per cent. This should read approximately 0·27 per cent. As we have uniformly stated the weights of the constituents to be used in making the solution, this error does not in any way affect the validity of the results which have been recorded, but the point may have given rise to difficulty when solutions for intravenous injection were being tested by titration.

By following the directions given in our papers (viz., 12·5 grammes bleaching powder, 12·5 grammes boric acid to 1 litre of water) standard eusol is obtained of which in general—

1 c.c. = \( \frac{1}{1000} \) sodium arsenite solution
= 0·0054 gramme chlorine
= 0·00262 hypochlorous acid.

Slight variations from this standard occur, depending on the percentage of "available chlorine" in the bleaching powder. With the best samples the percentage of hypochlorous acid in the solution rises to 0·3, but bleaching powder of B.P. standard (thirty per cent available chlorine) gives 0·27 per cent hypochlorous acid.

We are, etc.,

Department of Pathology,
University of Edinburgh,
May 15, 1916.

J. LORRAIN SMITH,
THEODORE RETTIE.