Correspondence.

THE SOLDIER’S TOOTH-BRUSH AND SHAVING-BRUSH.

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

Sir,—The subject of the soldier’s welfare has occupied so many minds with success, as regards feeding, housing, clothing and equipment, that it is surprising how the comparatively trifling items of the shaving-brush and the tooth-brush have so far not attracted the attention they deserve.

The prevalence of dental disease in peace and war and the occasional small outbreaks of eczema and impetigo about the face and neck, have always appeared to me a strong reason why the tooth-brush and shaving-brush should be issued each in a proper case. The present very loose system of the hold-all is certainly most unsatisfactory—from the point of view of personal cleanliness—for obvious reasons, which I need not labour. Further the average individual seldom understands the importance of the subject sufficiently to provide himself with these necessaries at his own expense.

Hoping that my letter may give the stimulus in the proper quarter.

I am, etc.,

J. E. GATT,
Curragh,
September 24, 1920.

Major, R.A.M.C.

TACTICAL HANDLING OF FIELD AMBULANCES.

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

Sir,—With reference to the interesting article by Major Reed in this month’s Journal on “Tactical Handling of Field Ambulances in Mobile Warfare,” the following methods (as employed in a division in France) of handling ambulances during the advance in 1918 may be of interest. At the commencement of the offensive, the ambulances of the division were allotted to the brigades, and remained as brigade units (as did also the train companies and field companies R.E.) till the termination of hostilities. It can be assumed that the brigade is the unit of attack. One ambulance (X) is detailed for “clearing the line,” the bearer divisions of the remaining two ambulances (Y) and (Z) are attached to it.

A selected bearer officer and the bearer division and a motor cyclist of his ambulance (X) are attached to brigade headquarters, and are on the strength of brigade headquarters, for rations, billets, march orders, etc. Of this personnel, immediately before the attack, two squads, one N.C.O. and one runner, are attached to each battalion. (This absorbs the brigade headquarters bearers.)

Officer commanding ambulance gets early and detailed information from his brigadier re the attack, and he informs the brigadier of distribution of bearers, and where wounded are to be brought, i.e., wounded collecting post (usually a point close to the brigade headquarters).

From this point Ford cars can in most instances be used for conveyance of