bread, and some information is better than none. An officer of the field ambulance was, of course, in close liaison with brigade headquarters near which the advanced dressing station was usually situated. Difficulties occurred to commence with, but very quickly the brigade staff came to consider the field ambulance and orders even during temporary cessation of movement came to us far more quickly through them than through the A.D.M.S. In fact, it was sometimes possible to inform A.D.M.S. of impending events, the reason being that it was not always appreciated that G. and M. should be in close liaison when operations were on the tapis. The longer channel G—A—M was too often followed! More stress should be laid on this point in F.S. Regulations. Liaison is, of course, the whole crux of the question, and in this connection it would be interesting to know what is the present situation as regards the three motor cycles which appear in W.E. for a field ambulance.

Whether they arrived in other theatres of war I do not know, but in the Promised Land they were not apparent in 1917-1918. In some divisions I believe they had been appropriated by signal companies, in others by R.A.S.C. repair units. Apologizing for the length of this letter,

31, St. Stephen's Road, Ealing. I am, etc.,
February 15, 1921.

KEPELL H. REED, Major R.A.M.C.

TACTICAL HANDLING OF FIELD AMBULANCES.

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

SIR,—I am not in favour of field ambulances becoming brigade units. All command over them by the A.D.M.S. of a division would at once cease, and it is essential that the director of these units should have the requisite training and knowledge which a brigade commander would not possess.

Removal of wounded from a battlefield is a scientific undertaking, therefore the position of the field ambulance is not analogous to the R.A.S.C. Train Company.

It is often quite unnecessary to have a whole field ambulance with a brigade, and in my experience the present system has worked quite well.

When a brigade becomes "independent" of its division, the field ambulance commander, who automatically becomes the S.M.O. should have no difficulty in keeping touch with his brigade commander, on whose staff he would be; he would perform to the brigade the same duties an A.D.M.S. does to the division.

In future wars the wireless telephone will remove practically all difficulties of intercommunication and adjust "defective and deficient" liaison if such exists. Even with this much will depend on the S.M.O. of the brigade, and whether he is "the right man in the right place."

I am, etc.,

G. T. RAWNSLEY,
Colonel R.P., late A.D.M.S. 12th Corps.