I am, Sir, &c.,

Headquarters, Lahore District,
Dalhousie,
July 30, 1928.

R. A. Mansell,
Major, R.A.M.C.

DYSENTERY IN INDIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF “THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.”

SIR,—It has been brought to my notice that in the June number of the Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps, p. 411, there is a paragraph in my report on the dysentery in Poona, which might be read in the light of a reflection on the administration of Major J. C. A. Dowse, who was then in charge of the family hospital in Poona. The paragraph states that specimens frequently arrived dry in the laboratory and therefore could not be bacteriologically examined, and is very badly worded.

As is stated elsewhere in the report, Major Dowse from the day he arrived in Poona collaborated whole-heartedly in this investigation. He was good enough to write a very interesting account of his experiences on the clinical side of the dysentery cases among children in Poona, which was included verbatim in the original manuscript of the report. The Editor of the Indian Journal of Medical Research, however, considered that the original draft should be shortened and matter not dealing with the actual object of the report, viz., laboratory investigation, should be made the subject of special papers. The report was therefore recast, and the clinical side reluctantly omitted.

The suggestion of Major Dowse that dysentery cases among children fall into two definite classes was retained in the report, as it appeared to be an unusually important clinical observation, and with an important bearing on treatment. The offending paragraph referred to above was merely written to show that we had not the same absolute bacteriological proof of Major Dowse’s views in the case of the small children, as in the case of older children and adults.

The laboratory is a considerable distance from the hospital, and with the hot weather prevailing at the time, plus the difficulty in collecting specimens from little children, and the lethargy of hospital sweepers on the road to the laboratory, fluid material on cloth naturally evaporated.
Correspondence

rapidly. The cases in question were few, and responded quickly to treatment, and therefore were not made the subject of any particular investigation, otherwise no doubt special measures could have been taken to overcome the difficulties mentioned above.

The matter may appear too trivial to bring to notice, but it should be made plain that there can be no question of any reflection on an officer, who was taking part from the clinical side in what was really a co-ordinated research, and who had taken much trouble in writing up a valuable survey of his cases for the final report.

I am, Sir, &c.,

J. A. MANIFOLD,
Major, R.A.M.C.

Army Headquarters; India,
Medical Directorate, Simla,
August 22, 1928.
EDITORIAL NOTICES.

The Editor will be glad to receive original communications upon professional subjects, travel, and personal experiences, etc.

Correspondence on matters of interest to the Corps, and articles of a non-scientific character, may be accepted for publication under a nom-de-plume.

All Communications or Articles accepted and published in the "Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps" will (unless the Author notified at the time of submission that he reserves the copyright of the Article to himself) become the property of the Library and Journal Committee, who will exercise full copyright powers concerning such Articles.

A free issue of twenty-five reprints will be made to contributors of Original Communications, and of twenty-five excerpts in the case of Lectures, Travels, Clinical and other Notes, and Echoes of the Past.

Reprints or excerpts, additional to the above, can be furnished on payment if specially ordered at the time of submission of the article for publication.

Communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed "The Editor, JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS, War Office, Whitehall, London, S.W."

MANAGER'S NOTICES.

The Annual Subscription for the JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS is £1, payable in advance. Single copies, 2s. per copy.

Cheques, etc., should be made payable to the "Journal R.A.M.C.," and crossed "Holt & Co."

Each subscriber who pays his subscription direct to the Manager will also receive monthly a copy of "The R.A.M.C., The A.D. Corps, and Q.A.I.M.N.S. News and Gazette."

Communications in regard to subscriptions, change of address, etc., should be addressed "THE MANAGER, JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS, A.M.D.2, WAR OFFICE, WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W. 1."

ADVERTISEMENT.

Communications regarding Advertisements should be addressed—
G. STREET & CO., LTD., 8, SERLE STREET, LONDON, W.C. 2.