Correspondence

The subjects vary from a description of Spanish opera to a recital of the sorrows of life in a lonely Indian station. They make quite interesting reading, especially to those who are familiar with the parts of the world with which they are connected.

Correspondence.

CLOVER AND MALARIA.

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

SIR,—There has recently been a considerable amount of discussion in the medical press of different countries on the value of certain species of Melilotus (clover) in the prevention of malaria by the action of its glucoside on the parasites in the mosquito.

It would be very interesting if some investigation on sound scientific lines by hygiene specialists, or other officers of the Corps, could be made in regard to the value of this method of prevention.

Before commencing the experiments, may I advise them to read "Clover and Malaria," by F. D'Herelle, in the September number of The American Journal of Hygiene for 1932.

The War Office,
Whitehall, S.W.1.
October 10, 1932.

P. H. HENDERSON,
Major-General, Director of Hygiene.

VACCINE PROPHYLAXIS OF THE COMMON COLD AND INFLUENZA.

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

SIR,—At this season when vaccination against colds and influenza is being done on an extensive scale we ought to be quite clear as to what we can expect from such inoculations. Dochez and his collaborators have proved by conclusive experiments on apes, repeated and confirmed by human experiment, that the infecting agent of the common cold is a filter-passing virus and they have cultivated this virus.

The infecting agent in influenza has not yet been determined, but it also is probably a similar virus.

These two diseases when they attack an individual provide him with a very transient immunity as most people know from personal experience. The vaccine used for prophylaxis does not contain the infecting agent of either disease and it cannot, therefore, produce a specific immunity. It contains the secondary organisms which invade the tissues made more susceptible by the primary cause and we can, therefore, expect it to produce some immunity against these organisms. It cannot be expected to reduce the attack rate, but it can be expected to reduce the length and severity of the subsequent illness.