India. 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 Meliobrotus (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.

I am, etc.,

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.
Notices

The best proof of its efficacy would be to have approximately equal attack rates in the inoculated and the uninoculated with a higher rate of severe and prolonged cases in the uninoculated. For this reason even the mildest coryza should be recorded with the greatest care in both inoculated and uninoculated by those responsible for the collection of statistics.

If we ever have a vaccine containing the specific antigen for these two diseases it is extremely doubtful whether the immunity produced will last longer than a month.

Leishman Laboratory,
Aldershot.
October 14, 1932.

A. Hood,
Major, R.A.M.C.

Notices.


INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR MILITARY MEDICAL INFORMATION.

The Permanent Committee of the International Conferences of Military Medicine and Pharmacy held a second session of the International Office for Military Medical Information at Liège. It was attended by 219 members representing twenty-eight nations and distributed as follows:—

Germany 1, Belgium 110, Brazil 1, Chile 1, Colombia 1, Spain 8, U.S.A. 3, France 49, Great Britain 1, Hungary 1, Dutch East Indies 1, Italy 2, Japan 1, Lithuania 1, Luxemburg 1, Morocco 1, Mexico 1, Monaco 1, Netherlands 12, Persia 1, Poland 2, Portugal 1, Roumania 1, Switzerland 4, Czechoslovakia 1, Turkey 3, Venezuela 3, Jugoslavia 2.

Official delegates of twenty different nations had been appointed by their respective Governments.

The following subjects were dealt with by fifteen lecturers representing nine different countries:—

Physical training in the Army.
Fitness for Military Service of men suffering from spina bifida.
Anti-diphtheritic injections in the Army.
Present-day treatment of respiratory syncope.
Military medicine throughout the ages.
Pathogenic aspergilli.
Modern ideas on gymnastics.
Scorbutus (scurvy) in the Army.
The first field dressing: its qualities and methods of examination.
The role of Inland Waterways in the Medical Service in War.
Peculiarities of the Medical Service in the Militia.