are devoted to investigation and stress is rightly laid on the great importance of taking a careful history in all such cases. Gastric analyses are dealt with in detail, but we could wish the author had been able to include more examples from actual cases in this section. The author takes the standpoint that the primary condition in the majority of cases lies between gastritis, ulcer and gall-bladder disease. A full chapter is devoted to each of these, and nothing that has stood the test of clinical experience has been omitted. A large section of the work is devoted to the investigation and diagnosis of intestinal complaints, and we are glad to see colitis dealt with from the point of view of the tropical physician, with some excellent illustrations of sigmoidoscopic findings taken from the original paper published by Biggam and the author.

The volume contains much additional information on the analyses of faeces and the investigation of pancreatic dysfunction.

There is a concluding chapter on diet, giving details of Hurst's ulcer régime.

This book is so good that it seems a pity the author did not include also some account of that very serious gastro-intestinal malady—sprue.

J. H.-S.

Correspondence.

THE POX-DOCTOR'S CLERK.

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

SIR,—Can any of your readers tell me the origin and meaning of the saying, "AS LUCKY AS THE POX-DOCTOR'S CLERK?"

Recently when I was riding home with hounds a farm labourer made this remark to our Master, à propos of his having found four foxes in our small withy-bed. The Master did not know whether to take the observation as a compliment or otherwise! I promised him that I would find out what it meant. The saying is apparently not confined to the West of England (where I live). But why should a quack venereal doctor have a clerk? And why should that individual be considered lucky?

Highbury, Warminster, Wilts.

March, 1934.

I am, etc.

OSKAR TEICHMAN,

Major, late R.A.M.C. (T.A.)