

Correspondence.

APPENDICITIS.

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

DEAR SIR,—I do not know if correspondence and criticism is now permitted in the Journal, but if so, I feel I must join issue with Major Fletcher-Barrett over his article on "Appendicitis" in the July issue.

I agree with his final remark on the value of knowing when not to operate. But though I do not belong to the school which operates upon every case of appendicitis forthwith, I consider the line of treatment which he advocates not only wasteful in time but actually dangerous.

He describes accurately a typical case of uncomplicated appendicitis. He calls it "an attack suggesting appendicitis," but if he operated upon these cases he would see that the appendix is inflamed.

It is perfectly true that the majority of patients with appendicitis will recover under the treatment that he describes; but some will not, and it is impossible to know beforehand which are the cases which will go on to peritonitis.

The mortality of operation while infection is confined to the appendix is practically nil: once the peritoneum is involved, the patient's life is in danger. The prime object of operating early is to avoid exposing our patients to this danger—why then wait for signs of peritonitis before operating?

There are still thousands of deaths annually from appendicitis. The only way to reduce this mortality is to remove inflamed appendices before they imperil the patients' lives. This we often cannot do, because the patient does not reach us in time. But if he is lucky enough to reach a surgeon early, only very special contra-indications should be allowed to deprive him of the chance of a safe removal of the source of his troubles.

I am, etc.,

C. M. FINNY,

Colonel, R.A.M.C.

INCORPORATED SOLDIERS AND SAILORS HELP SOCIETY.

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

SIR,—Every year it is the privilege of some senior sailor or soldier to ask for the continued support of the public for the Soldiers and Sailors Help Society with which is incorporated the Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops, that admirable institution for disabled ex-Service men.

The products of the Workshops, the beautiful and finished work of all kinds, are now well known, and it is perhaps realized that the Society's object is to train and employ disabled soldiers and sailors whose disability from war service prevents them from earning an adequate and honourable livelihood in the ordinary employment markets of the country.

That such a noble work should have been started as a lasting memory

to the great Earl Roberts who "died within sight of the battle smoke," visiting the front of the soldiers he loved so well, should appeal for all times to the people of this Nation. The rank and file of the permanent services are largely drawn from "Labour." It is "Labour" whom the British Nation hires to win its "Trafalgars" and "Waterloos," to leave its bones in Waziristan.

Those who return to us unfit to earn their living or with inadequate wound pensions should be the most appealing of all our duties and benevolences.

Without their services the Empire cannot continue, nor this great country earn its wages and its wealth.

The objects of this Society are twofold: firstly, the relief of distress among deserving ex-Service men, and secondly, to put the disabled man, as nearly as possible, on the same footing for earning a living as those who are not injured. The goods that the disabled men make are sold at competitive prices but the badly injured must take longer on their work than the hale.

The Great War is fading into oblivion but the "Regular" soldier and sailor of this Empire is always at war or engaged in dangerous duties for the peace of the world and the protection of our own, and other peoples, in the four quarters of the globe.

May I once again, on behalf of the Chairman of the Society, the Countess Roberts, and her Council, and all those who have contributed to this work in the past, ask the public to contribute again, or to give help for the first time, to a work that should lie very near their consciences.

Cheques should be crossed "Lloyds Bank Ltd." and made payable to Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Roger Keyes, Bt., Hon. Treasurer, Incorporated Soldiers and Sailors Help Society, Room T, 122, Brompton Road, London, S.W.3.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

GEORGE MACMUNN,
Lieut-General.

Notices.

PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, ETC., EXHIBITED BY
BURROUGHS WELLCOME AND CO. AT THE BRITISH
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING, BELFAST.

JULY 19 TO 23, 1937.

CONSIDERABLE interest was shown in "Tabloid" Sulphonamide-P (p-aminobenzenesulphonamide), the new chemotherapeutic preparation for the oral treatment of hæmolytic streptococcal infections. A special exhibit demonstrated the action of Sulphonamide-P in the blood-stream. Included in this exhibit were clinical and other charts.