Correspondence

request from a Staff Officer for the loan of a "field ambulance." The best cure for such a request is to deliver a field ambulance, complete, at place and time requested. He is not likely to use the wrong nomenclature again.

To obviate confusion, the term "motor ambulance car" should always be used in full when issuing verbal or written orders.

I am, etc.,

Peshawar.
December 23, 1938.

T. W. DAVIDSON,
Major R.A.M.C.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES.

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

DEAR SIR,—On page 109 of the editorial on "The State of the Public Health" in your issue of the Corps Journal for February, 1939, one reads the following:—

A great extension has been made for the scheme of postgraduate courses for medical practitioners. Under this larger scheme, which will apply to practitioners irrespective of where they practise, it is intended that they shall be able to obtain a free course once in every five years. Within specified limits not only will the fee of the course be paid, but also travelling and subsistence costs and the cost of the whole-time locum tenens where one is required.

Many of your readers will no doubt have been impressed on reading the above, and wonder if something of the kind could not be arranged for the medical man in the Services. The Ministry of Health have come to realize that in order to offer the public the best advice that the medical profession can provide medical practitioners must be kept constantly abreast of the frequent and important advances which are continually being made by medical research.

At the present time an average of eight years passes before the young officer in the R.A.M.C. undergoes a course and examination in professional subjects. At that time he comes to realize only too well what strides medicine and surgery have made since he qualified, and even with regular reading of the medical journals he finds it difficult to make up lee-way. Following the Senior Course no further refresher course is provided for the rest of the officer's service, a period probably of about twenty years.

Other branches of the Service are constantly being given refresher courses in various arms and being taught new improvements, and what applies to them should surely apply to the Medical Services, where the changes are no less rapid and probably infinitely more important.

Now that the short service system is under trial and there is the
possibility of a certain number of young officers shortly returning to civil life, it would be unfortunate if the impression were to get about that the R.A.M.C. was in any way lagging behind the rest of the profession in the important matter of keeping abreast of modern thought and discovery. It is suggested, therefore, that in order to bring the Medical Services into line with our civilian colleagues, and with the combatant branches of the Services, periodic courses should be held, which for the general duty officer should embrace all those subjects likely to be found most useful by a staff surgeon or officer in medical charge of troops and families during his daily work. Obstetric emergencies of diseases of women and children should certainly find an important place.

Such a procedure would, I feel sure, soon justify itself in attracting in increasing numbers the best type of young medical man.

_Crookham Camp,_
_Aldershot._
_March 15, 1939._

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**Notice.**

"**DESIBYL**" CAPSULES.

MESSRS. PARKE DAVIS inform us that "Desibyl" capsules contain desiccated whole bile in a readily soluble form. The capsules are hermetically sealed, thus effectively preserving the contents. They are indicated when the administration of an effective natural bile preparation is required, such as might be needed to replace bile lost through fistulae; as a cholagogue; as a choleretic; and for the bacteriostatic and digestive actions of bile.

Clinical evidence suggests that the administration of bile by mouth minimizes anaemia and "bile cachexia"; and that it also promotes absorption of fat-soluble vitamins A and D, thus aiding in preventing, or correcting, certain nutritional disorders.

The usual dose of "Desibyl" capsules is two or three capsules three times daily, after meals. Two "Desibyl" capsules are approximately equivalent to 5 c.c. of fresh natural bile.