

under treatment. The writer notes the rapid response in cases suffering from general complications. Of 40 cases treated with uleron, the results are disappointing as compared with those following sulphanilamide.

A study of the leucocyte counts in the series under review appears to show that the white cell-count and the percentage of polymorphs are restored to normal during administration of the drug, any initial abnormality being corrected.

No cases have been reported on as treated with M & B 693 in the above series. D. H. M.

FIRST-AID TO THE INJURED AND SICK. Seventeenth Edition. By Warwick and Tunstall. Edited by F. C. Nichols, *M.C.*, *M.B.*, *Ch.B.*, *M.R.C.S.*, *L.R.C.P.*, *L.D.S.*, late Captain *R.A.M.C.* (*T.*). Bristol: John Wright and Sons, Ltd. 1939. Pp. xvi + 328. Price 2s. 6d. net.

This is one of the very best books on this subject, and the fact that it has now reached its seventeenth edition speaks for itself. It is an extremely comprehensive book, but manages to keep very much to the point. The section on Gas Poisoning in Warfare has been brought up to date and contains all the essentials in a concise form. This book can be thoroughly recommended. C. C.

STRAIGHT TIPS FOR "SUBS." Fourteenth Edition. By the late Captain A. H. Trapman. Revised to date by Major J. Seymour Rouse. London: Forster, Groom and Co. 1939. Pp. xxxix + 72. Price 1s.

This snappy little book should be in the pocket of every young man who aspires to a commission in the Army. It is now in its fourteenth edition, and it is difficult to see how it could be improved. C. C.

TEST QUESTIONS AND MODEL ANSWERS ON FIRST-AID. By E. S. Brawn, *M.R.C.S.*, *L.R.C.P.* London: George Gill and Sons, Ltd. Price 6d.

This is a useful little book. The questions are practical and the answers are very much to the point. Any first-aider, knowing all these answers, would have quite a good general knowledge of his job. C. C.

Correspondence.

NOMENCLATURE OF BLOOD GROUPS.

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

We have received the following letter from the Ministry of Health:—

DEAR SIR,—As the British member of the Health Committee of the League of Nations, I have been asked to draw your attention to the following resolution passed at the meeting of this Committee on November 20–25, 1939:—

“The Health Committee believes it to be its duty once more to draw the attention of all concerned to the recommendation adopted by the Permanent Commission on Biological Standardization in 1928 concerning the nomenclature to be adopted in the designation of blood groups. It is of opinion that, especially in present circumstances, the use of a uniform nomenclature will obviate mistakes which might entail serious consequences.”

In 1928, the Permanent Commission on Biological Standardization reported that :—

“The Commission learns with satisfaction that, on the initiative of the Health Organization of the League of Nations, the nomenclature proposed by von Dungern and Hirsfeld for the classification of blood groups has been generally accepted, and recommends that this nomenclature shall be adopted for international use, as follows :—

O A B AB

To facilitate the change from the nomenclature hitherto employed, the following is suggested :—

Jansky	O(I)	A(II)	B(III)	AB(IV)
Moss	O(IV)	A(II)	B(III)	AB(I)

The Commission recommends the adoption of the following method of designating test-sera :—

Test-serum A (anti-B)
Test-serum B (anti-A)

Test-serum A (anti-B) should be placed in containers of white glass, test-serum B (anti-A) in containers of brown glass.

The Commission having learned that in certain countries this nomenclature was not yet in current use, emphasized the importance of achieving uniformity in the matter. The Commission believes that this object might be attained : (a) If each institute which supplies standard sera used solely this nomenclature ; (b) if the editors of scientific journals (medical, legal, etc.) insisted upon the exclusive use of this nomenclature in all the works they may be called upon to publish. It is particularly desirable that all the more important weekly medical journals should also conform to this rule.”

The attention of the Health Committee had been drawn to the question by the Danish member, who stated that authoritative British medical journals had recently published articles in which the old nomenclature had been used.

Yours faithfully,

NEVILLE M. GOODMAN, M.D.

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