

Correspondence.

P.O.W. CAMPS IN THAILAND.

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

DEAR SIR,— . . . I was a P.O.W. in Thailand and was with Captain Markowitz and Major Hazelton for quite a while, to whom I shall be forever grateful for all their attention. Especially to Captain Markowitz shall I be most grateful, for under his supervision I had seven blood transfusions at Nakon Paton in 1945 and I am certain that without them I would not be writing you this letter.

. . . In conclusion, may I say "Thank you" to the R.A.M.C. for their splendid work all through Thailand.

12, *St. George's Terrace,*
Roker, Sunderland,
Co. Durham.

Yours most sincerely,

A. FRANK HARDY.

June 16, 1946.

Reviews.

THE CAUSATION OF APPENDICITIS. By A. Rendle Short, M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.S. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd. London: Simpkin Marshall (1941), Ltd. Pp. viii + 79. Price 10s.

Professor Rendle Short has taken up again in this monograph the much debated question of the causation of Appendicitis. He surveys the history of the disease, reaching incidentally the interesting conclusion that King Stephen "almost certainly" died of the disease in 1154. He then goes on to the Recent History of the disease, the Personal *Æ*tiology and the National Distribution before taking up the relationship between Diet and Appendicitis.

In the majority of cases, he says, the proximate cause of acute attacks is not ascertainable, but he brings further evidence in support of his hypothesis, published in 1920, that a relatively less quantity of cellulose in the modern dietary, possibly linked with a vitamin deficiency, may be the Ultimate cause, whilst a diet rich in meat conduces to the disease.

The reviewer saw a very marked lowering of the incidence of Appendicitis among British prisoners in Japanese hands as compared with the normal in the Army on a full British diet. Prisoners of war had as their staple diet rice boiled in water to which were added coarse vegetables, likewise boiled, for the main meal of the day. There was a marked deficiency of protein and fat while the vitamin content was notably low, and it was very remarkable how very few cases of appendicitis occurred. The reviewer even got the impression that the disease became less frequent the longer the imprisonment lasted.

Professor Rendle Short has pursued his subject through a wide field and has included a list of references which will be useful to those who wish to study further this most interesting subject.

D. C. B.