

Correspondence

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE,
MILLBANK,
LONDON, S.W.1.

SIR,

I should be grateful if you would allow me to correct some errors in my article, "The Honorary Physicians and Surgeons to the Sovereign," which appeared in the Journal for September 1951.

The distinction of being the first officer to be promoted brevet-colonel on appointment as Honorary Physician or Surgeon belongs, not to Lt.-Col. R. S. F. Henderson, R.A.M.C., but to Brigade-Surgeon Lt.-Col. C. E. Harrison, Grenadier Guards (K.H.S., March 13, 1907). It may be noted that had such promotion been authorized before 1879, the only officer to whom it would have applied was also a surgeon of Foot Guards, Surgeon-Major J. A. Bostock, Scots Fusilier Guards.

In the nominal rolls, the date of Major-General J. J. Gerrard's appointment as K.H.P. should be 24.11.19, not 27.1.18; Major-General H. C. R. *Hine* should be HIME: and the list of K.H.P.s should include the name of Col. (temp. Brig.) H. A. Sandiford, M.C., M.B. (23.1.46), above Major-General J. C. A. Dowse. Brig. R. A. Broderick should be included, above Major-General H. J. Higgins, in the Honorary Dental Surgeons, Regular Army, and not in a separate list.

Finally, it should be mentioned that only one officer, the present D.G., A.M.S., has ever been successively both Honorary Physician and Honorary Surgeon.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

J. B. NEAL,
Major, R.A.M.C.

DERMATOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT,
THE QUEEN ALEXANDER MILITARY HOSPITAL,
MILLBANK, LONDON, S.W.1.
October 15, 1951.

SIR,

To ensure that an article is published correctly most journals take the obvious precaution of forwarding proofs to the author for his approval and for amendment if necessary.

In the recent past, three articles which I have submitted have been accepted and published incorrectly. In the first two there were errors which were rela-

tively unimportant; but in the Journal of September 1951 on page 161, you printed incorrectly a passage in such a manner that a reflection is cast on a treatment devised by Dr. T. T. Patterson of Cambridge. The sentences *should read:*

"Other treatments tried included one devised by Dr. T. T. Patterson of Cambridge which consisted essentially of Brilliant Green paint and a dusting powder consisting of equal parts of talc and iodoform. This was an effective form of treatment which showed no advantage over the former but had the disadvantage that iodoform powder did cause occasional reactions.

"Undecylenate powders tended to cause interdigital maceration: they were better if used in conjunction with a Brilliant Green or Gentian violet paint. Subjectively most patients preferred the simple dusting powder."

I should be glad if you would give this letter prominence in your next issue.

Yours faithfully,

K. GREENWOOD.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—Sincere apologies are offered both to Major Greenwood for this mutilation of his article which should have been spotted and corrected in the proof-reading stage and to Dr. T. T. Patterson for any apparent aspersions cast on his treatment either by patients or by the author of this Journal.

As a matter of interest it should be mentioned that galley proofs are in fact in most cases sent out to authors and often are only returned weeks after the galleys have been returned to the Printers, in some cases weeks after the issue of the completed relative monthly number has been made.]

ST. ANDREW'S HOUSE,
EDINBURGH, 1.

October 17, 1951.

DEAR SIR,

Sir Andrew Davidson has passed me your note about your wish to publish in the Journal of the R.A.M.C. the current notes that appeared about that Journal in the last issue of the *Health Bulletin*.

As Editor of the *Health Bulletin* and also as the writer of the notes in question, I have very great pleasure in giving you full permission to reprint the relevant portions on the understanding, of course, that references to the *Health Bulletin* will be made.

I have for long enough admired the JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS and have felt that it made a continued and sustained contribution to preventive medicine and to the promotion of health. I am very sorry indeed that financial reasons are making it impossible to continue in its present form but, as I mentioned in the note, I am one of the many who will look forward with great interest to the phoenix that will arise from its ashes.

Yours sincerely,

I. A. G. MACQUEEN.

PARSONAGE HOUSE,
HAMPSTEAD NORRIS,
BUCKS.

September 30, 1951.

DEAR SIR,

I consider the entry in the Corps Journal that gives the estate value of deceased officers most objectionable and distasteful.

Various other retired officers are in full agreement with me on this and I suggest that no such further entries are printed.

Yours faithfully,

H. G. PEAKE

(Colonel Rtd.).

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—A canvass of opinions in the Mess and elsewhere agrees with Colonel Peake's protest and request which will therefore guide future policy on this point.]

DO/DAH/51.

October 10, 1951.

DEAR EDITOR,

You will be interested to see the reference to the R.A.M.C. Journal in *Health Bulletin* (issued by the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health for Scotland) Current Notes pp. 54 and 55 sidelined, and the approval recorded to your Editorial criticizing the arguments for the opponents of vaccination.

I like the *Health Bulletin*. Andrew Davidson and his staff form a very live team.

Yours sincerely,

T. YOUNG.

EXTRACT FROM
HEALTH BULLETIN

Vol. ix, No. 4, October 1951

One of the few medical journals consistently concerned with the promotion of health and the prevention of disease, rather than simply with the treatment or palliation of established disease, has been the JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS, which has maintained a high standard of contribution and has done much to advance the cause of social health in the 48 years of its existence. We note with profound regret that the Journal is shortly to terminate a career that began in 1903, but we await with considerable interest the emergence of what we hope will be a phoenix from the ashes.

A recent issue of the JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS (Vol. 96, No 5, May 1951) contains a vigorous criticism of the specious arguments of those opponents of vaccination who try to "bolster up the case for withholding the protective safety of vaccination, quite forgetful of or completely ignoring the fact that we in this island still fortunately enjoy, in spite of many efforts to the contrary, a very considerable measure of general protection against

smallpox due to the existence over the past forty or fifty years of a reasonably well-vaccinated state in the community." The same number of that Journal contains an interesting article by Colonel R. H. Robinson on "Future Medical Officers for the Army," in which the proposal is made that the Army should run an undergraduate medical school of its own—partly because there is a scarcity of doctors at present and "it appears that the existing schools cannot turn out enough doctors to satisfy the more attractive civilian services," partly because such a school could pay special attention to military medicine, and partly because it would pay much greater attention to preventive medicine, to maintenance of health, and to reduction of injury and disease than in existing schools where therapeutics seems to take precedence.

Matters of Interest

ON the occasion of His Majesty's recent operation the following message was sent to our Colonel-in-Chief and the subsequent reply received:

TO: PRIVATE SECRETARY TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

FROM: D.G.A.M.S., WAR OFFICE.

Director-General and All Ranks Royal Army Medical Corps send their humble duty to their Colonel-in-Chief and earnestly pray that His Majesty The King may soon be restored to full health and strength.

(Above telegram despatched 10 a.m., September 24, 1951.)

WAROF A81 7.30 BUCKINGHAM PALACE 28

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
WAR OFFICE. =

I SEND MY SINCERE THANKS TO ALL WHO JOINED IN
YOUR KIND MESSAGE WHICH I DEEPLY APPRECIATE
ELIZABETH +

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES AND COURSES R.A.M. COLLEGE, MILLBANK JANUARY 1952

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| Tues. | 1 | 51st Senior Officers' Course commences clinical instruction. |
| Thurs. | 10 | College Evening Lecture (5 p.m.) "The proper sphere of Social Medicine" (Dr. Andrew Topping). |
| Mon. | 21 | Lieutenants on First Appointment—Course commences. |
| Wed. | 23 | Demonstration for London School of H. & T.M. R.A.M. College (2-4 p.m.). |
| Thurs. | 31 | College Evening Lecture (5 p.m.) "Modern trends in the treatment of Carcinoma of the Breast" (Sir Cecil P. G. Wakeley, P.R.C.S.). |