Correspondence

Gammaglobulin and Measles

SIR,

During the recent measles epidemic eleven cases occurred in our practice in which a child under three had a thorough exposure from an older child in the household.

Counting the day of the appearance of the rash on the older child as one, each younger child was given 250 mg. of Gammaglobulin on the fourth day.

Modified measles developed in ten cases, some of these being so mild as to have been disregarded had the mother not been warned to look out for any faint rash. In all cases other symptoms were almost negligible. In the eleventh case we have reason to suspect that a rash may have been missed by the mother. Certainly this child did not develop florid measles.

It appears that this regime is almost one hundred per cent successful in the deliberate production of modified measles.

M. J. GORDON, M.D., M.R.C.P.
Collindale. M. M. SUNDLE, M.B., B.CH.

Centenary Appeal of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing

SIR,—I would like to draw the attention of members and associates of the College to this appeal.

Most of us receive considerable help from our local district nurses and I think that many would welcome an opportunity to show their appreciation.

It is 100 years since William Rathbone of Liverpool first persuaded a nurse to tend the sick poor in their own homes and the Queen's Institute is marking this centenary by appealing for £250,000.

The money is to be used for the Institute's work in training nurses, for providing an administrative staff college (which will be in Liverpool) for meeting the numerous requests to pioneer and develop nursing services overseas, for providing grants for sick and retired district nurses, and for the maintenance of the Institute's headquarters. Donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer:

M. J. Babington-Smith, Esq., C.B.E.,
Queen's Institute of District Nursing,
57 Lower Belgrave Street,
London, S.W.1.

The Institute is particularly helped if a doctor makes a 7-year

Deed of Covenant. Forms for making a Covenant can be obtained from the same address.

The College has been represented since its foundation on the Council of the Queen's Institute and it is as its representative at the present time that I draw your attention to this Appeal and urge you to subscribe as a token of support.

Regent's Park. JOHN HORDER.

Sir,

Serial Numbers for Patients

When allotting serial numbers to patients it may sometimes be helpful to use the first two digits to represent the year of birth, and make the last digit even or odd according to sex. Thus a lady who is fifty this year in my records would be numbered, say, 091112. Her son might be 403245. The significant digits are underlined. A suitable rubber stamp makes it no more laborious to allot six digits than to use fewer. The advantage is the instant check on age and sex given by the number on each sheet of notes.

Harrogate. GEORGE JOHNSON.

MEDICAL NEWS

THE BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION

These courses have been arranged for the week of the annual general meeting of the College.

Applications for places should be made to:

Secretary, British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 18 Guildford Street, London, W.C.1.

They should state if the application is or is not made under the Scheme for N.H.S. practitioners.

November 16th—20th	*General course for general-practitioner trainers* London Undergraduate and Postgraduate Teaching Hospitals.
November 16th—20th	*General course* Whittington Hospital, London, N.19.
November 16th—20th	*General course* Paddington General Hospital, London, W.9.
November 19th—20th	*Dermatology* Institute of Dermatology, London, W.C.2.
November 19th—20th	*Neurology* Institute of Neurology, London, W.C.1.
November 19th—20th	*Obstetrics and Gynaecology* Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, London, S.W.3.
November 19th—20th	*Paediatrics* Institute of Child Health, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.1.