In some localities there was evidence of the occurrence of infection with type 80/81 strains after hospitalization but in many patients no history of recent contact with hospitals was found.

The significance of these findings are discussed in relation to the epidemiology of staphylococcal infection and to the correct use of antibiotics.

(*Author's summary.*)

Correspondence

Are Facilities at Health Centres a Luxury?

Sir,

Your recent editorial on the last Annual Report of Darbishire House calls for some observations.

You state that a student receiving his general practice training in the " luxury of a health centre " is likely to be disappointed at his unfulfilled expectations of what general practice can offer in the way of ancillary help and apparatus.

Why are the facilities of the health centre considered a luxury? The craftsman requires the best of tools and facilities to do his work properly. Is not the student then to be shown the best in the way of equipment and co-operation from the ancillary services, so that he may go out into the world and demand that only the best is good enough?

For too long have general practitioners practised their art on a shoe string. We do not take students and show them a practice of surgery or medicine in some little country cottage hospital, although I would agree that some are good, but many indifferent. Why then do you advocate that students be shown general practice away from a medical school, which body alone is responsible for student education?

The ideal system demonstrating general practice is a period in a health centre, plus a period in a practice acceptable to the university, by reason of the standard of work performed therein. Thus will the student be able to compare the advantages and disadvantages of both and so obtain a fuller comprehension of the problems involved.

Manchester. H. W. ASHWORTH.