CORRESPONDENCE

AN EXPLANATION

To the Editor THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

SIR,—A surgical instrument factory, of Freiburg (Germany), has just sent me a prospectus, quoting highly flattering remarks, signed Professor Dr. Landolt.

I sincerely hope that none of my colleagues who have received the same prospectus will confuse my name with that of this Professor Doctor.

Yours, etc.,

PARIS, Nov. 30, 1920.

Dr. EDMUND LANDOLT.

BOOK NOTICES

Fatigue of the Visual Apparatus in Miners. (*La Fatigue de l'Appareil Visuel chez les Ouvriers Mineurs.*) By Dr. M. STASSEN. Liège : Imprimerie H. Vaillant-Carmanne, Place Saint-Michel, 4. 1914-1919.

This book is the result of a close practical study of coal miners' nystagmus which the author has made over a number of years, interrupted only by the war.

In order to become thoroughly familiar with the condition under which work in metalliferous as well as coal mines is carried on, Stassen has frequently worked underground himself, and, in addition to this, he has had the advantage of an association with such an authority on the subject as Nuël; it is, then, not surprising that the result is a contribution to the present knowledge of coal miners' nystagmus which no one interested should be without.

Perhaps the most attractive portion of the book is that dealing with the pathogeny of the disease, a clue to which is found in the title, namely "Fatigue of the Visual Apparatus in Miners," for Stassen regards the nystagmic condition as essentially one of excessive fatigue.

To explain this theory, the physiology of vision, according to Nuël, is put forward at some length, thus: "The visual organ, like other sense organs, can be regarded as an *ensemble* of neurons through which the transformation of impressions into movement is effected.

"Apparently, the most voluntary of our visual movements must