DRUGS AND THEIR SUBSTITUTES.

To the Editors of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

DEAR SIRs,—In your interesting annotation on drugs and their substitutes, in the July number of this journal, your concluding sentence runs "What a nightmare of a life it will be if we have to account for every drop of homatropine and cocaine we use."

During the early part of the war, I had the good fortune to be working at the Ministry of Pensions, where the officials were kind, human and co-operative, but did not seem to trust their Ophthalmic Surgeons to the extent of allowing them free use of a bottle of homatropine and cocaine. Every drop instilled into a patient's eyes had to be solemnly entered in a book kept for the purpose. So far as I remember, the entry was made in red ink, and had to be signed or initialled by the surgeon who had instilled the drops.

No doubt there are many more flagrant instances of bureaucratic inanity, and they will doubtless increase with increasing state control of our profession, but I felt, in view of the closing sentence of your annotation, that my experience was worthy of mention.

Yours faithfully,

F. A. WILLIAMSON-NOBLE.

27, HARLEY STREET, W.1.
June 24th, 1946.

OBITUARY

JAMES TAYLOR, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P.

THE death of James Taylor, on June 6, 1946, at the age of 87 years, is a break in the history, not only of neurology, but also in ophthalmology, for he was Physician to Moorfields Hospital for many years. He numbered Hughlings Jackson, Gowers, Ferrier and Horsley among his neurological friends, and Marcus Gunn, Nettleship and Jonathan Hutchinson on the ophthalmological side.

Born in Forres in 1859, he was educated in Forres Academy and Edinburgh University, and was house physician at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and Hospital for sick children. Later he put in post-graduate work in Germany before his appointment as House Physician at the National Hospital, Queen Square. Having determined on neurology as his career he held the post of Pathologist at Queen Square and was afterwards elected to the Honorary staff. Taylor joined the Ophthalmological Society in 1891, served on the Council 1894-97, was Medical Secretary, 1897-1900, Vice-President,