CORRESPONDENCE

MISTER or DOCTOR

To the Editors of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

DEAR SIRs,—Although strictly speaking the title of Doctor should be confined to those who *are* "Doctors," *i.e.* those who hold the degree of Doctor of a University, yet since this title is now so universally applied to any duly qualified medical practitioner I agree with the writer of the annotation on the above subject that it is questionable whether this "Mister - Doctor" distinction subserves any useful purpose now, although it may have done in the past in the days when the Surgeon was a sort of "plumber" called in by the Physician to do a piece of technical manual work.

As I see it the chief disadvantages of the use of the term "Mister" as applied to a Surgeon are:—

1. It is confusing to the lay public.
2. It is confusing to our medical colleagues in other countries.
3. It "covers" the "unqualified" medical practitioner, for how can the layman easily distinguish (if he wishes to do so) between two gentlemen with West End addresses in the Medical area, one being a reputable Surgeon medically qualified, the other being a not-medically-qualified "naturopath," both styling themselves "Mister"?

Similarly how can the layman easily distinguish between a medically qualified ophthalmologist and an optical practitioner or ophthalmic optician, if both are just "Mister."

Now that we are on the eve of the establishment of a State Medical Service in which it is envisaged that sight testing opticians will take their official place, I would advocate that the medical men in the ophthalmic profession should for the sake of differentiation style themselves Doctor instead of Mister (just as they do in Scotland and also in Manchester).

I might add that I have no personal feelings on the subject and could not care less whether I am addressed as Mister, Doctor or just

Yours truly,

KEITH LYLE.

42, CHARLES STREET, W.1.
30th January, 1947.

MEPACRIN AND THE EYE

To the Editors of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

DEAR SIRs,—Miss Ida Mann in her communication "Blue Haloes in Atebrin Workers" has solved the clinical appearance of what