CORRESPONDENCE

OPHTHAINE (PROPARACINE HYDROCHLORIDE)

To the Editorial Committee of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

SIRS—There has been widespread interest in this local anaesthetic since a paper appeared in the February issue of the *British Journal of Ophthalmology* (1964, 48, 102). Although popular in the United States, for some reason its efficiency had been overlooked in the United Kingdom.

However, it is necessary to clarify a point of ambiguity in relation to amylocaine mentioned in the paper. This drug is marketed in the United States under the trade name of "Dorsacaine", while in England it is called "Novesine", and is manufactured for Wander Ltd. in Switzerland. The anaesthetic is well known and widely used.

Nevertheless, the point is an important one, for doctors on both sides of the Atlantic are confronted with a mounting list of trade names for the same drug, the formula of which is too complex to condense. Manufacturers also find it very difficult to obtain the same patent for a drug for universal international use.

May I, therefore, enter a plea on behalf of doctors and manufacturers that international legislation should come to the rescue and override this confusion.

Yours faithfully,

PETER V. RYCROFT

35 HARLEY STREET,
LONDON, W.1.
December 3, 1964.

BOOK REVIEWS

Recueil Périodique: Encyclopédie médico-chirurgicale. 1964. Éditions techniques, Paris.

This is the 41st *recueil périodique* to the *Encyclopédie médico-chirurgicale*. It contains articles on the following subjects: light sense in normal and pathological subjects, by G.-E. Jayle and J.-L. Vola; trachoma, by R. Nataf and G. Coscas; the vitreous body, by E. Bessière; the eye and professional clinical infections, by P. Brégeat and Ph. Demailly; and the eye and collagenous diseases, also by Brégeat and Demailly. There are numerous additions to, and revisions of, articles already in the encyclopaedia, bringing this up to date.

Visual Pigments in Man. By W. A. H. RUSHTON. 1962. Pp. 38, 16 figs. Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Ill. (\$3.75)

The Sherrington Lectures delivered biennially at the University of Liverpool have now become one of the scientific events in this country that excite great expectations. Hitherto they have dealt with Sherrington the man or some aspect of the physiology of the central nervous system; the sixth in the series has apparently broken with tradition in so far as it concerns the visual pigments.