

CORRESPONDENCE

KERATITIS SICCA

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

SIR,—With reference to my article on this subject in your February issue, Professor H. J. M. Weve, of Utrecht, has written calling my attention to the report of a case of his in the *Nederlandsch Tijdschrift voor Geneeskunde*, 1928, I, No. 7. As it may be of interest I am appending the following notes from his letter :

“ The patient, a female aged 33 years, complained of epiphora in the left eye and as the function of the lacrimal ducts proved normal the gland was partially extirpated (1920). Thereafter lacrimal secretion stopped immediately and entirely in this eye with the result that a chronic keratitis of the filamentary type developed with marked irritation and the production of fibrinous threads in the conjunctival sac much like those observed after the local application of silver nitrate. Protection with a watch glass alleviated the discomfort, but it ultimately had to be abandoned. The lacrymal puncta were then cauterized, a procedure which was followed by some improvement. After the application of several expedients, fibrolysin was given by instillation into the conjunctival sac once a day, whereupon all symptoms vanished within a week. This treatment has been continued for eight years, during which time the patient has comfort as long as the fibrolysin is used, but the symptoms return as soon as the remedy is stopped.”

This case confirms the suggestion which I had made that even the partial extirpation of the lacrymal gland was a procedure which was not entirely without danger ; and it is interesting as it is the only reference, so far as I am aware, to any therapeutic measure having a beneficial effect apart from the mechanical influence of drops of an oily nature.

Yours truly,

W. S. DUKE-ELDER.

LONDON.
February 17, 1930.

BLINDNESS IN INDIA

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

SIR,—The communication on “ Blindness in India ” which appears in your January issue may possibly misrepresent the existing state of affairs with regard to the prevention of blindness in this country. To some of your readers it may appear that the All-India Blind Relief Association is the only organisation which deals with this important problem, whereas the work done in this connection by other agencies must be very much greater. The editorial in the *Indian Medical Gazette* for September, 1929, on

“ Preventable blindness in India ” gives a general idea of the position. Apparently at the time it was written the All-India Blind Relief Association was not in existence. The exact relationship of the All-India Blind Relief Association to the older Blind Relief Association established in 1919 is not clear. In the past the Blind Relief Association has done very excellent work, but I think it is a pity that some of the communications intended to help that organisation which have appeared should not recognise the immense amount of work which is being done in this connection by other agencies, particularly by Government.

Yours truly,

ROBERT E. WRIGHT.

MADRAS.

NOTES

Moorfields Research Scholarship

THE Moorfields Research Scholarship for the current year has been awarded to Mr. J. H. Doggart.

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St. Margaret's Hospital for Ophthalmia Neonatorum

THE annual returns for St. Margaret's Hospital for ophthalmia neonatorum for the years 1928 and 1929 are as follows:—

No. of children admitted		No. of mothers admitted		No. of children discharged with both eyes blind		No. of children discharged with single eye blind		No. of eyes with impaired vision	
1928	1929	1928	1929	1928	1929	1928	1929	1928	1929
204	224	138	135	Nil	1	3	1	23 (6 both eyes, 11 single eye)	17 (6 both eyes, 5 single eye)

DEATHS—BABIES 10.

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fracture base of skull	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							—
							10

During the course of the year 322 midwives and post-graduates visited the Institution. They were largely drawn from Queen Charlotte's Hospital, the College of Nursing, Middlesex Hospital,