CORRESPONDENCE

SPRING CATARRH AND SPLENIC EXTRACT

To the Editors of The British Journal of Ophthalmology.


The comment of Mr. A. F. MacCallan in your issue of December, 1932, Vol. XVII, No. 12, abstracts 11, conjunctiva, pp. 749-750, unfortunately, gives a wrong idea of my rationale for this treatment which I have clearly stated on p. 62. It is stated there that "Splenic extract relieves the symptoms of spring catarrh as a local allergic phenomenon, similar to skin itching conditions accompanied by Eosinophilia and relieved, according to German authors (and lately according to our own experience) by splenic extract" treatment. All that Mr. MacCallan has quoted from my paper as regards Eosinophilia and Bilharziasis and splenomegaly was simply the train of thought that suggested to me the idea of preparing an extract from the human spleen removed by operation. We have used this extract for many conditions of which spring catarrh is one.

My colleague, Dr. Attieh, in his comment on my method of treatment in the Bull. Ophthal. Soc. of Egypt, Vol. XXVI, pp. 195-201, 1933, has also unfortunately misunderstood what I said about Eosinophilia, although he mentioned the conception of allergy which is my principal basis for the treatment of spring catarrh with splenic extract.

M. F. SOROUR.

CAIRO.

May 6, 1934.