

The paste so formed is of a creamy consistency, and passes through a lacrimal canula quite easily with only slight pressure. Its semi-solid consistency probably acts like a bougie and helps dilate the passages, and the sulphacetamide is retained longer in contact with the affected tissues. The use of penicillin instead of, or in conjunction with, the sulphacetamide in the paste would no doubt be an advantage. I have not had the opportunity to try it out.

Yours truly,

E. EPSTEIN, Major, R.A.M.C.

MILITARY HOSPITAL,
YORK. April 27, 1945.

MYDRIATICS IN THE EYES OF WEST AFRICAN NEGROES

To the Editors of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

DEAR SIRS,—Having practised in Southern Rhodesia for the last 16 years, where I have been consultant in ophthalmology at the native hospital; I would like to comment on the article by Major J. Graham Scott on the "Eye of the West African Negro." I do not agree that homatropine hydrobromide 2 per cent, with cocaine hydrochloride 2 per cent, has no effect on the African. Certainly after the usual half hour there is no dilation, but after two hours or longer the pupils are dilated. This is rather an important point, because atropine will incapacitate the patient for any close work from 5 to 10 days, and he also has his value on the labour market.

Yours faithfully,

LOUIE A RUBIDGE.

STRACHAN'S BUILDINGS,
BAKER AVENUE,
SALISBURY, S. RHODESIA.
March 16, 1945.

NOTES

Deaths

THE untimely death of Dr. K. J. W. Craik, Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge cuts short a brilliant career. Primarily a psychologist and philosopher, his knowledge of mathematics and physics, combined with his skill as an experimentalist, enabled him to accomplish researches of the greatest value and reliability. His Ph.D. thesis on "Visual Adaptation" dealt with the effects of adaptation on visual acuity and subjective brightness. The experiments showed much originality, and the analysis of the results led to physiological, psychological, and philosophical deductions of profound importance. Adaptation resembles mathematical differentiation, and permits us