DRUGS AND THEIR SUBSTITUTES.

To the Editors of The British Journal of Ophthalmology.

Dear Sirs,—In your interesting annotation on drugs and their substitutes, in the July number of this journal, your concluding sentence runs "What a nightmare of a life it will be if we have to account for every drop of homatropine and cocaine we use."

During the early part of the war, I had the good fortune to be working at the Ministry of Pensions, where the officials were kind, human and co-operative, but did not seem to trust their Ophthalmic Surgeons to the extent of allowing them free use of a bottle of homatropine and cocaine. Every drop instilled into a patient's eyes had to be solemnly entered in a book kept for the purpose. So far as I remember, the entry was made in red ink, and had to be signed or initialled by the surgeon who had instilled the drops.

No doubt there are many more flagrant instances of bureaucratic inanity, and they will doubtless increase with increasing state control of our profession, but I felt, in view of the closing sentence of your annotation, that my experience was worthy of mention.

Yours faithfully,

F. A. Williamson-Noble.

27, Harley Street, W.1.

June 24th, 1946.

OBITUARY

JAMES TAYLOR, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P.

The death of James Taylor, on June 6, 1946, at the age of 87 years, is a break in the history, not only of neurology, but also in ophthalmology, for he was Physician to Moorfields Hospital for many years. He numbered Hughlings Jackson, Gowers, Ferrier and Horsley among his neurological friends, and Marcus Gunn, Nettleship and Jonathan Hutchinson on the ophthalmological side.

Born in Forres in 1859, he was educated in Forres Academy and Edinburgh University, and was house physician at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and Hospital for sick children. Later he put in post-graduate work in Germany before his appointment as House Physician at the National Hospital, Queen Square. Having determined on neurology as his career he held the post of Pathologist at Queen Square and was afterwards elected to the Honorary staff. Taylor joined the Ophthalmological Society in 1891, served on the Council 1894-97, was Medical Secretary, 1897-1900, Vice-President,
1910, and Hon. Treasurer, 1911-18. He served as President of the Neurological and Ophthalmological sections of the Royal Society of Medicine as well as of the Harveian Society. He was awarded the C.B.E. in 1920.

James Taylor's literary output was considerable; he assisted Gowers in editing the 3rd edition of the latter's Manual of Diseases of the Nervous System. He also edited with Gordon Holmes and F. R. M. Walshe "Neurological Fragments" of Hughlings Jackson and contributed the biographical memoir of his old chief. This was followed in 1931 by two volumes of "Selected Writings" of Hughlings Jackson, while earlier in his career he had brought out a book on Paralysis and Nervous Diseases in Childhood and Early Life. He had the happy faculty of being able to secure the confidence of little children and was an excellent all-round physician as well as a master in Neurology. For many years he practised at 49 Welbeck Street. Our sympathy is extended to his widow and only daughter who survive him.

Dr. Gordon Holmes writes:—

By the recent death of Dr. James Taylor at the age of 87, the Ophthalmological Society has lost one of its oldest members who served both as its Secretary and Treasurer, and Moorfields the senior member of its Consulting Staff.

From 1899, when he was appointed physician to Moorfields, the medical side of ophthalmology was one of his chief interests and to it he made several valuable contributions. As he was during these years also physician to the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, the neurological aspects of affections of the eye naturally attracted him, and his close association with Hughlings Jackson, who was one of the first in England to use the ophthalmoscope and who always insisted on the importance of the study of ophthalmology by physicians, also determined this bent.

Taylor was also an excellent general physician whose opinion on medical problems related to disease of the eye was widely sought by his colleagues.

It was at Moorfields too, that he met his wife, who proved an ideal companion in a happy married life of over forty years.

MAX MEYERHOF

News of the death of Meyerhof has only just reached us. A scientific ophthalmologist and a renowned medical orientalist he practised in Cairo for more than forty years. He settled there after having completed an assistantship with Uhthoff of Breslau, the teacher of Axenfeld. Previously he had published a series of communications on the pathological anatomy of the eye, mostly on tumours, in Axenfeld's Klinische Monatsblätter. From 1905 to