CORRESPONDENCE

B.A.L. IN OPTIC NEURITIS CAUSED BY ARSENICALS

To the Editorial Committee of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

SIRS—In the July issue of the *British Journal of Ophthalmology*, Oehninger, Rodriguez Barrios, and Gomez Haedo published a report of two cases of optic neuritis caused by arsenicals, which were treated with B.A.L. They referred to Friedenberg (1947), who published the first observation of visual recovery after treatment with B.A.L. in a patient with optic neuritis provoked by tryparsamide, saying they had not found any other reference to this form of therapy in the literature.

I should like, therefore, to refer to my own article on a case of arsenical amaurosis treated successfully with B.A.L. which was published in October, 1953. The patient came for consultation with almost total blindness in both eyes, following five injections of Acetylarsan in a case of severe asthma. The visual acuity was 1/60 in the right eye and no perception of light in the left eye. She was treated with intramuscular B.A.L. and intravenous vitamin C (300 mg. daily). Complete restoration of sight (6/6 in each eye) was obtained in 3 months' time. The field of vision for white objects improved considerably, but the extent of the field for red objects remained contracted. One puzzling feature was the development of numbness and tingling in the lower extremities about a month after beginning treatment, which persisted for over a month before it subsided.

Yours faithfully,

B. K. DAS GUPTA.

30, CHOWRINGHEE ROAD,
CALCUTTA, INDIA.
August 19, 1955.

REFERENCES

- DAS GUPTA, B. K. (1953). *J. All-India ophthal. Soc.*, **1**, 89.
FRIEDENBERG, S. (1947). *J. Amer. med. Ass.*, **135**, 1072.
OEHNINGER, C., RODRIGUEZ BARRIOS, R., and GOMEZ HAEDO, C. A. (1955). *British Journal of Ophthalmology*, **39**, 422.