CORRESPONDENCE

SIR,

As you are aware, the problems of war-time production and distribution have done much to foster a spirit of co-operative effort among firms in all branches of industry. The benefits which have accrued from such collaboration have in many cases been so conspicuous as to foreshadow its continuance after the war, to the advantage of producer and consumer alike.

Particularly noteworthy steps in this direction have been made by the four firms entrusted with the manufacture of insulin in Great Britain. These firms, mindful of their special responsibilities to the diabetic community, have throughout the war period pooled their research, manufacturing and distributive facilities to ensure an adequate and uninterrupted supply of their products to those in daily need of them and to reduce their prices, in the face of rising material and labour costs, to the lowest practicable level.

A recent development of this fruitful collaboration is of such far-reaching significance that a short account of it may be of interest to your readers. Three distinct types of insulin—Unmodified Insulin, Protamine Zinc Insulin and Globin Insulin (with Zinc)—are in regular use in this country. Alternative strengths of two of these make a total of six different preparations and confusion between them might easily be attended by serious consequences.

To reduce this possibility to a minimum, the British Insulin Manufacturers have agreed to sacrifice the goodwill attached to their individual styles of packaging in favour of a uniform design for labels and cartons, by which each type and strength of insulin, of whatever make, will be readily identifiable by a distinctive colour scheme.

This decision has met with the unqualified approval of leading medical authorities and of the Ministry of Health, and is one example of the way in which the British drug and fine chemical industry is meeting its responsibilities in the maintenance of the nation's health services.

Yours very truly,
The Wellcome Foundation Ltd.
C. GORDON OAKES,
Director

on behalf of
ALLEN & HANBURYS LTD.
BOOTS PURE DRUG COMPANY LTD.
THE BRITISH DRUG HOUSES LTD.
BURROUGHS WELLCOME & Co.

INSULIN COLOUR SCHEME

As from January 1, 1944, all British-made insulin packings will conform to a standardised design, by which each type and strength, of whatever make, will be readily identifiable by a distinctive colour scheme. In addition, the unit strength per c.c. will be displayed in bold figures on both label and carton. An explanatory card, printed in colours, is obtainable from any of the manufacturers on request.

This valuable safeguard against confusion, which will be warmly welcomed by the medical profession, has been made possible by collaboration between the manufacturers concerned (Allen and Hanburys Ltd., Boots Pure Drug Company Ltd., the British Drug Houses Ltd. and Burroughs Wellcome & Co.) after consultation with leading authorities and with the approval of the Ministry of Health.

BOOK REVIEWS

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF WAR SURGERY

By J. TRUETA, M.D. 1943. Price 42s.

It is regretted that in the review of the above book, which appeared in the October issue of this Journal, incorrect particulars were given. The publishers are Hamish Hamilton, Ltd., in conjunction with Wm. Heinemann, Ltd.

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

By J. ERNEST NICOLE. 3rd Edition. Baillière, Tindall & Cox. London. 1943. Price 5s.

This is the third edition of this valuable little book. The author has cleverly managed to bring

it up to date, whilst resisting the temptation to expand it to unwieldy proportions. All the more important contributions to psychopathology, and even to allied studies, are summarised in this book which contains 27 pages of well-chosen bibliography. Most highly condensed précis of the work of other authors are almost unreadable and very difficult to grasp; but Dr. Nicole succeeds in holding the interest of the reader throughout the 219 pages of well-written text. We can confidently recommend this book to medical students who are taking their prescribed course in psychological medicine; for it is unfortunately impossible, in the time allotted to him, for the lecturer to undergraduate students to cover the field of psychopathology, with the result that the student is given a very unbalanced account of psychiatry. Post-graduate students, reading for the D.P.M. or taking their doctorates in psychological medicine, should certainly add this book to their libraries.