valuable addition to his antibiotics, with which they are likely to be used.

Streptokinase together with streptodornase is already being prepared in this country¹¹, but the manufacturers have wisely warned those who may be contemplating using it¹² that it should not be

employed for the prevention of adhesions as, for example in the abdominal cavity, for under such circumstances it may well interfere with normal tissue repair.

SELWYN TAYLOR, M.Ch., F.R.C.S.
Postgraduate Medical School of London

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On the subject of our last Editorial (by a distinguished Chinese contributor) we are indebted to the Editor of the *Lancet* for permission to reproduce the following letter:—

PROTECTION OF SURGEONS

SIR.—Having recently been forced to give considerable attention to the protection of young surgeons in this country it seems to me advisable to publish some points about the present position in general and the question of 'cover' in particular.

The first point to be appreciated is that any claim against a hospital will be answered by the Ministry of Health. The Ministry in its turn assumes no responsibility for an act of any member of the medical staff, and will in fact bring him in as a third party in the action. This will have the effect of transferring the action from the Ministry to the doctor; and he will find not only that he is not supported, as he was in the old days, by the hospital and its nursing staff, but also that they are Ministry witnesses and can be used against him. It is therefore vitally essential that he should provide himself with all the assistance he possibly can.

The unenviable position in which the doctor is

being placed becomes particularly unfortunate when a visitor from overseas is concerned. Having returned to his own country after a period here during which time he may have performed some operation at any time up to six years subsequently a claim arising out of that operation can be transferred by the Ministry and laid at his door.

It is therefore good to be able to report that the Medical Defence Union and the Medical Protection Society have recently made special provisions to cover visitors from overseas, and it behoves such visitors to take advantage of these provisions. An overseas doctor who has studied or practised in this country and who desires to maintain protection should make an application for either a retired life membership subscription (Medical Defence Union) or a combined subscription (Medical Protection Society). The full details are available from Dr. Robert Forbes, Medical Defence Union, 49 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1, and from Dr. A. R. French, Medical Protection Society, Victory House, Leicester Square, London, W.C.2.

B. L. MCFARLAND.
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery,
University of Liverpool.

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