From the replies received there is no evidence of dissatisfaction on the part of the local doctors in regard to the terms and conditions of attendance upon this class of person.

Post-natal Treatment
The following resolution was passed by the Manchester Local Medical and Panel Committee on September 9, 1938: "That having regard to the provisions of the Midwives Act, the Insurance Acts Committee be requested to consider the advisability of revising the terms of service of insurance practitioners so that the treatment which a practitioner is required to give does not include attendance within a period of fourteen (not ten) days after labour in respect of any condition resulting from labour."

Correspondence

ABUSE OF THE TELEPHONE
Sir,—The decision of an insurance committee that a chemist is failing to observe the terms of a service agreement (except for reasonable cause) (Supplement, September 10, p. 193) will meet with general agreement. The argument may be followed to its logical conclusion. An insured person requiring the professional services of a chemist must present a written prescription; he cannot approach the chemist by telephone, and the chemist cannot be penalized for failing to dispense a telephoned prescription. A patient requiring the professional services of a medical practitioner must present his medical card. What is the position of a doctor who fails to respond to a telephone message which is not a matter of urgency from a panel patient? According to recent judgments of insurance committees a practitioner may be heavily penalized for failure to comply with a telephoned request for treatment. Can this penalty be justified?
I am fortunately on excellent terms with my panel patients, and cases of inconsiderate demands upon my time are few and far between, but there are many practitioners in industrial areas whose leisure hours are constantly menaced by a succession of telephone calls from insured persons. It is on their behalf that I submit that no panel patient is entitled to use the doctor's telephone in asking for a visit, nor is a doctor under any obligation to answer such a telephone call (except in an emergency). If for any reason—when, for instance, a telephone call for a distant visit is received after ten o'clock and the doctor had already started out on his morning round—a practitioner thinks fit to disregard a telephone call he should not be liable to any penalty for refusing to visit a patient under these circumstances.

I am, etc.,
Hayle, Cornwall, Sept. 13.

D. STANLEY-JONES.

HOSPITAL SAVING ASSOCIATION
Sir,—We must all welcome the letter from Mr. F. B. Elliott (Supplement, September 10, p. 193). The criticisms voiced at the Annual Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association, Plymouth, were not of the existence of the hospitals contributory scheme but of the abuses to which all general practitioners in London know that it is open. It is good to learn from Mr. Elliott's letter that the Hospital Saving Association recognizes these abuses and is endeavouring to end them. Mr. Elliott may rest assured that the general practitioners of London will be ready to co-operate in these endeavours, and as, in his final sentence, he asks for suggestions for "further educative efforts," I would ask him whether the Hospital Saving Association has applied these efforts in the only direction in which they can be really successful—in the hospitals themselves?—I am, etc.,
London, S.W.18, Sept. 19.

F. GRAY.

Corrigendum
In Dr. George De Swiet's letter on "Medical Service Subcommittee Cases," which appeared in the Supplement of September 17 at page 205, one sentence read as follows: "I also know of another medical service subcommittee the medical practitioners who had taken the trouble to appear before the subcommittee in test cases deliberately brought up in the interests of all insurance practitioners." This should have read: "I also know of another medical service subcommittee the medical members of which had in recent times failed to back up practitioners who had taken the trouble to appear before the subcommittee in test cases deliberately brought up in the interests of all insurance practitioners."

Naval, Military, and Air Force Appointments

ROYAL NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE
Surgeon Commanders C. G. Sprague to the President, for Royal Naval Recruiting Headquarters; W. Flynn to the Liverpool (undated); G. E. Heath and D. Duncan to the President.
Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander H. G. Wells to the Apollo (October 4) and lent to R.A.N. (October 6).
Surgeon Lieutenant G. H. G. Southwell-Sander to be Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander.
Surgeon Lieutenant T. F. Davies has been transferred to the permanent list, with original seniority of August 1, 1933.
Surgeon Lieutenants S. C. S. Cooke to the Dragon; G. S. Thomas to the Drake, for Royal Naval Barracks.

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE
Surgeon Lieutenant-Commanders E. A. Gerrard to the Caledonia; E. R. G. Passe to the Manchester.
Surgeon Lieutenant E. C. Johnson (seniority as Surgeon Lieutenant) adjusted to August 7, 1928), and promoted to Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander (seniority August 7, 1934).
Surgeon Lieutenant G. L. Foss to the Daring; Probationary Surgeon P. J. Hay to the Furious; R. E. J. Pembrey to the Courageous; D. J. N. McNab to the Newcastle.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
Lieutenant (on probation) P. J. Daly has been restored to the establishment.

ROYAL AIR FORCE MEDICAL SERVICE
Group Captain D. Ranken has been placed on the retired list.
Flight Lieutenants A. C. McLean and R. S. B. Mead have been granted permanent commissions in their ranks.
Flight Lieutenants R. H. Pratt to R.A.F. Station, Abbotsinch; W. F. Stamm to R.A.F. Institute of Pathology and Tropical Medicine, Halton.

TERRITORIAL ARMY
ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
Lieutenant C. de L. Shortt to be Captain.
H. H. Corrigan to be Lieutenant.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE
Lieutenant-Colonel W. P. Hogg, D.S.O., M.C., I.M.S., has been employed as Chief Medical Officer and Inspector-General of Prisons in Baluchistan.
Lieutenant (on probation) W. Laurie to be Captain (on probation), with seniority September 10, 1937.
Captains V. E. M. Lee, G. B. W. Fisher, E. P. N. M. Early, W. McAdam, G. F. Condon, and V. Stavinossan to be Majors.