MITEMPFINDUNG

Sir - The communication of Dr E Martin (IMJ 1991; 84(3): 84) greatly interested me, as I have had the "syndrome" for years. Probably the reason why doctors do not often hear about it from their patients is that it is recognized as being trivial.

It may well be the same entity as synaesthesia, in which stimulation of one sensation may give rise to the production of response in another sense, e.g. a particular sound may result in the perception of a certain colour, or vice versa. It is possible that corporeal Mitempfindung is a form of spinal reflex; but if so it is not identical with synaesthesia of the kind mentioned above (which would require cerebral mediation).

S Ua Conchubhair

Uaran Mor Gaillimh