

Letter to the Editors

described, and in the surgery of the neck, instructions for local infiltration and paravertebral anæsthesia are given.

In all cases, with the exception of some operations on the larynx, a suitable dose of scopolamine and morphia is given two hours before operation.

C. GILL CAREY.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

THE TREATMENT OF LUPUS BY RADIUM.

TO THE EDITORS

The Journal of Laryngology and Otology.

DEAR SIRS,—When referring to my article on Lupus in the August number of the *Journal* Mr Mortimer Wharry rightly surmises that my contribution was only an opening address intended to stimulate discussion. I could hardly hope to give “a comprehensive view” of the local treatment in one paragraph of ten lines. In that same paragraph, referring to the galvano-cautery, I did observe that “this is not the occasion on which to defend its use and compare it with other remedies.” Hence I made many omissions, particularly in regard to the extensive lesions mentioned by Mr Wharry, where “lupus may cover the whole of the mucous membrane of the upper air-tract.” Such cases do not come my way. I agree that they would be unsuitable for the cautery and I am very glad to know of the good results of radium.

But I have, unfortunately, seen some of the bad results of radiation, particularly in regard to the larynx. The literature, American and Continental, on these risks should put us on our guard against what I referred to in my article as “possible, uncertain, and sometimes remote evil effects.”

A good remedy is only good until a better is found. In limited lesions of lupus I have, at present, found no local remedy to surpass the galvano-cautery. As mentioned in my address, it acts with certainty and is free from risk or danger. If we can be assured that radium is equally or more effective, it will certainly be a welcome remedy in extensive lesions of lupus, and, if we can be taught how to use it so as to insure against such risks as necrosis of healthy tissue or remote laryngeal perichondritis, then it will certainly be a better local treatment in all but limited patches of lupus.—Yours faithfully,

ST CLAIR THOMSON.

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