

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR,

The Journal of Laryngology and Otology.

DEAR SIR,—It is generally realised that calomel exerts a favourable influence in the early stages of many pharyngeal affections—in fact, its administration is part of the routine treatment. I wonder, however, if its possible mode of action has been considered.

I would submit that the favourable action of calomel is due to the salivation which it causes—the increased saliva having a bactericidal action upon the pharyngeal micro-organisms. I would further suggest that in affections of the throat, the saliva is less than normal and that this reduction is a result of reflex action arising from stimuli in the inflamed tissues.

I am, Sir,

Faithfully yours,

PATRICK E. CARROLL.