

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

TO THE EDITORS,

The Journal of Laryngology.

SIRS,—I have just received the Journal with Mr Tilley's reply to my last letter on "The Blood-Clot Method of Closing the Mastoid." Of course I accept Mr Tilley's statements, but they do not satisfy me. In doing a simple mastoid operation, I hold that evacuation of the muco-pus and complete exenteration of the mastoid process are not all we aim at. We aim at complete restoration of the middle ear, and I cannot see how this method secures it. I have done over four hundred mastoid operations, most of which have been the simple operation, and the resulting condition of the middle ear and hearing in most leave nothing to be desired. If I could be sure of the same results with the immediate closure method I would willingly adopt it, for the after-dressing would be so much lessened. T. A. MACGIBBON.

CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.

OBITUARY

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL, HON. LL.D. (EDIN.)

It is fitting that the *Journal* should pay tribute to the life and work of Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, who died on 1st August at Baddeck, Nova Scotia.

Born in 1847 in Edinburgh, where he received his early education at the High School and the University, in 1870 he emigrated to Canada on account of his health, and, along with his father, he took up residence in the town of Brantford, Ontario.

The lines of scientific research, which brought distinction and fame to the younger Bell, doubtless had been stimulated and fostered by the work of his father, Melville Bell, who had attained some celebrity by reason of his scientific analysis of the elements of speech, and through the introduction of methods directed towards the alleviation of deafness. Engaged in the study of audition and elocution, Graham Bell turned his attention towards improving the means of rendering the sound of the human voice intelligible to the deaf and dumb.

It was but a further step in the development of his thesis, to study