

Letter to Editors

avulsion *per vias naturales*. In the preface to the first edition, reference is made to a certain amount of intentional repetition. This characteristic has been continued in this edition and is occasionally a little wearisome. A good deal of space is taken up by general considerations in maxillary antral diseases which have already been sufficiently reviewed in the section reserved for them. There is a certain *naïveté* for British readers in the following: "It is obvious that they who have plenty of time and means at their disposal will prove much more favourable subjects for conservative treatment than those whose time and money are limited."

The section on the frontal sinus is very good. Accurate and very helpful descriptions of the radical operations are given, and timely hints and warnings regarding the pitfalls and accidents. Ballenger's method of exenterating the ethmoid gets a definite mead of praise, and has become a routine practice of Dr Skillern's. The symptoms and signs of sphenoidal sinus inflammation in all their variety are clearly described and elaborated.

Vaccine therapy in sinus disease is discussed shortly, and the reader is warned not to expect too much from it. In a work of this description one would have expected more space to be given to X-ray investigation.

There are nearly 600 references to the literature of the specialty and these are very accurately given so that the student has no difficulty in following up any particular reference.

Dr Skillern's book may be thoroughly recommended to the medical man who has leanings towards rhinology, and who intends eventually to confine himself to the practice of the specialty.

W. T. GARDINER.

LETTER TO EDITORS.

TO THE EDITORS,

Journal of Laryngology.

DEAR SIRS,—I should like to draw the attention of the profession to a new snare wire which I have been using for some months. The material of which it is made is *Monel Metal*, an alloy containing 67 per cent. nickel, 28 per cent. copper, and 5 per cent. other elements. Monel metal is bright and looks like nickel. It does not corrode, and is very flexible. Its tensile strength is considerably greater than annealed steel wire and apparently about the same as tempered steel wire (94,562 lbs. per square inch). The special advantages which I have found in its use in snares are:—(1) It is very much more

General Notes

easily manipulated than the ordinary piano wire. It stretches slightly more than steel, but not enough to make any practical difference. Everyone who is in the habit of using tempered steel wire has been made painfully aware of its tendency to spring back and puncture the fingers when the ends are being twisted. Incidentally it is difficult to twist unless annealed by heating in a small flame. Annealed wire, while easily twisted, has the drawback of not having enough tensile strength. Monel metal is pliable and at the same time tough enough for the purpose. (2) The snares can be boiled repeatedly without drying or re-threading as the metal does not corrode. (3) This wire can be used over and over again, while steel wire cannot as a rule be used more than three or four times without cracking.

I have used this wire a great deal for nasal work and also for tonsil snares, but here one must be careful that the ends are securely twisted, as the metal is so pliable that the wire may otherwise pull out.

Monel metal is produced by the International Nickel Company. The agents in Great Britain are G. & J. Weir, Ltd., of Glasgow.

Trusting this may be of interest to some of your readers.—I am,
Sir, yours truly,
J. K. MILNE DICKIE.

196 ELGIN STREET, OTTAWA,
29th April 1921.

GENERAL NOTES

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE,

19th July—23rd July.

Section of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology.—*President*—G. William Hill, M.D. *Vice-Presidents*—R. Gordon Bell, M.D.; James Don, M.D.; Dan M'Kenzie, M.D. *Hon. Secretaries*—Lionel Colledge, M.B. (22 Queen Anne Street, London, W. 1); W. Frank Wilson, M.B. (97 Jesmond Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne).

The following provisional programme has been arranged :—

20th July (*Wednesday*), 10 A.M. Discussion: Problems in connection with the Early Diagnosis and Treatment of Meningitis occurring in Aural Cases. To be opened by Sir Charles Ballance, K.C.M.G., C.B.

21st July (*Thursday*), 10 A.M. Discussion: The Various Problems presented by Hæmorrhage occurring in connection with Operations on the Tonsils.