

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR,

The Journal of Laryngology and Otology.

SIR,—Borgheggiano's case of " Peri-pharyngeal abscess " following petrositis quoted in the *Journal* of February, page 132, is almost duplicated by a case I saw in 1919. A boy, aged 11 years, developed scarlet fever and about a week later, on October 6th, 1919, had a myringotomy done for acute suppuration of the right middle ear. Progress was satisfactory for a week then right temporal pain, slight internal squint of right eye and rise of temperature to 102°, developed with diminution of discharge from the ear. He complained of some stiffness of movement of the neck and swelling was noticed behind the ramus of the jaw. On November 13th, 1919, the swelling was found to be pushing his right tonsil inwards and forwards. This pharyngeal abscess was opened and three days later a simple mastoid operation was done. There was congestion of the bone and the whole mastoid process was exenterated, including the internal wall of the mastoid tip, but no abscess was found. The opening in the pharyngeal abscess was enlarged and the cavity was found to lead up towards the styloid process. Obviously petrositis with suppuration tracking down the stylohyoid ligament was present. Subsequent progress was good.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES ADAM.