

## LETTER TO THE EDITORS

### PATHOLOGY OF OZÆNA.

TO THE EDITORS,

*Journal of Laryngology and Otology.*

SIRS,—Lately, I have seen a number of cases of atrophic rhinitis simplex and also a number of large nasal cavities, the result of partial and complete exenterations. Among the partial cases, some have been discharging pus from unopened and “inaccessible” cells; yet there has been no odour nor crusting.

I have seen a moderate number of the fœtid cases, but to me they are of a different order altogether.

I wish to know if a microscopic study of the mucous membrane has been made in the cases of (1) ozæna, (2) atrophic rhinitis simplex, *i.e.*, the condition with large cavities lined with pale, thin, mucous membrane, and (3) post-operative cavities, in order to compare the structure of the lining membrane in each case. I feel that there is in ozæna more than simple atrophy, or, as some authorities say, atrophy and fœtid secretion in the sinuses.

It seems to me that along with the atrophy of the bony structures and the soft tissues there must be some interference with the blood supply and drainage, including the lymphatic drainage, causing marked changes in the glandular tissues of the mucous membrane of the nose.

I am not clear upon this point, but I cannot accept the new theory that atrophic rhinitis fœtida is a symptom and not a disease. I think that Mr Lambert Lack holds the opinion that there is a difference, and that this is his reason for “risking” extensive removal of the turbinals in spasmodic rhinitis.

T. A. MACGIBBON.

CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*L'Odorat.* H. ZWAARDEMAKER. Paris: Gaston Doin. 16mo, 312 pp., 29 Figs. Price 15 francs. 1925.

The unique and fertile contributions to the knowledge of the sense of smell made by Professor Zwaardemaker and his school at the physiological laboratories of the University of Utrecht require no introduction to rhinologists.

In the present volume (a worthy member of the “Bibliothèque de Psychologie Expérimentale,” edited by Dr Toulouse), Professor Zwaardemaker presents not only a summary of his own work on olfactometry, odorimetry, the detection of odorivectors by the