

Letters to the Editors

correct the obstruction, when the inflammatory disturbance had subsided sufficiently.

Meanwhile, although the nasal obstruction remained complete, he had attempted to resume work on more than one occasion, but found he could not manage it.

Nine months after the accident, and before it had been possible to admit him to hospital for the proposed operation, he contracted pneumonia, which proved fatal. He was paid compensation until the day of his death.

The widow claimed compensation for the death on the grounds that the complete nasal obstruction was either contributory to the incidence of the pneumonia, or, that it prejudiced his chance of recovery therefrom.

Without wishing to question the ruling of the learned judge, who no doubt disallowed the claim on correct legal principles, I would submit the judicial attitude towards this case raises a question of supreme importance in rhinology.

Have all our efforts towards the relief of intra- and post-nasal impairment of obstruction, during the past eighty odd years, been performed for entirely other reasons, and based on a misconception of the relation between these disabilities and pulmonary inefficiency and disease? Are our ideas on the necessity for the proper functional physiological integrity of the nose erroneous?

If an incomplete nasal obstruction, to which the patient may, so to speak, have gradually accommodated himself, be regarded as prejudicial, *inter alia*, to the welfare of the respiratory tract—as I think is generally admitted by rhinologists—how much more of a disability must be a complete sudden occlusion to one who hitherto has utilised the nose to its full extent.

The columns of your Journal have been offered for the ventilation of controversial points, and I venture to send these notes in the hope that they may lead to an expression of opinion, or that the subject may possibly be regarded of sufficient interest to warrant a discussion by members of our specialty.—Yours, etc.

ALEX. R. TWEEDIE.

NOTTINGHAM,
4th March 1924.

TO THE EDITORS,

The Journal of Laryngology and Otology.

SIRS,—In the *Journal* of September 1923, you published a paper by me upon "Injury to the Larynx induced by X-ray Treatment." I have just noticed that there is an important misprint in it. On lines 6 and 7 it is stated, "Between 1915 and 1921, she was frequently

General Notes

treated by X-rays for ulceration of the skin of the neck." The words "by X-rays" should be omitted. They cannot have been written by me, as it is evident from my paper that it is important that the patient should not have been treated by X-rays during these years. These words will not be found in my manuscript, and it is possible that the mistake has arisen during the correction of my bad English. As I pointed out to you in September, I did not receive galley proofs.

I ask you if you will be so kind as to correct this important mistake, and to publish in your *Journal* the necessary correction. The sentence should read, "Between 1915 and 1921, she was frequently treated for ulceration of the skin of the neck."—I am, yours
A. VAN ROSSEM.

ROTTERDAM,

March 1924.

[We desire to express our regret that this misprint should have occurred in Dr Van Rossem's paper.—EDS.]

GENERAL NOTES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE,

1 Wimpole Street, London, W. 1.

Section of Laryngology—President, Mr H. J. Banks-Davis, M.B., F.R.C.P. *Hon. Secretaries*, Mr J. F. O'Malley, F.R.C.S., and Mr E. D. D. Davis, F.R.C.S.

The Annual Meeting of the Section will be held on Friday, 2nd May, at 4.45 P.M. All communications should be addressed to the *Senior Hon. Secretary*, Mr J. F. O'Malley, F.R.C.S., 6 Upper Wimpole Street, London, W. 1.

Section of Otology—President, Mr Sydney Scott, M.S. *Hon. Secretaries*, Mr Archer Ryland, F.R.C.S.Ed., and Mr T. H. Just, F.R.C.S.

The Annual Meeting of the Section will be held on Saturday, 3rd May, at 10 A.M. Communications should be addressed to the *Senior Hon. Secretary*, Mr Archer Ryland, F.R.C.S.Ed., 50 Harley Street, London, W. 1.

The Conjoint Summer Meeting of the two Sections will be held in London on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 26th, 27th, and 28th June.

The Session will open on Thursday morning at 10 o'clock. Members of both Sections will dine together at the Langham Hotel on the evening of Friday, 27th. This Dinner will take the place of the Section Dinners usually held at the Annual Meetings.