

Letter to the Editors

with the author that the reproduction of photographs of such diseases as scarlet fever and rubella leaves much to be desired, we think that the inclusion of pictures of judiciously selected cases of smallpox and chickenpox is of considerable value to the student. We can confidently recommend this work, which is extraordinarily good value at the price, not only to students and practitioners but also to those who take an even deeper interest in the subject. W. T. BENSON.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

THE EDITORS,

The Journal of Laryngology and Otology.

SIRS,—Dr E. Escat of Toulouse, in the second volume of his valuable work *Surdités Progressives et Otospongioses*, which forms the seventh of the *Monographies Oto-Rhino-Laryngologiques Internationales*, now in course of publication, strongly recommends the endo-tympanic pressure-variation test for fixation of the stapes, and claims to be the originator of it. He claims for it (p. 707) the following advantages over Gellé's test:—

“(a) Au lieu d'explorer la mobilité de l'étrier en fonction de l'audition cranienne, reproche qui a été fait à l'épreuve de Gellé, elle l'explore en fonction de l'audition aérienne;

“(b) Les pressions endo-tympaniques sont plus facile à produire que les pressions centripètes et n'exigent aucun appareil special;

“(c) Pouvant être plus facilement prolongées et répétées que les pressions centripètes, leurs effets peuvent être plus facilement saisis et observés par le sujet en expérience.”

I worked out this method of determining fixation of the stapes many years ago, and in an account of it, published at the time, claimed for it the following advantages:—

“(1) Movements of the ossicles may be induced without obstruction of the external meatus.

“(2) It is thus possible to test both air- and bone-conduction, and to compare one with the other, under varying conditions of tympanic and labyrinthine pressure. This is impossible, or at any rate the results are vitiated, if the external meatus is occluded as in Gellé's test.”

Dr Escat's monograph was published in 1922. My own account of the endo-tympanic pressure-test antedates this by ten years, having appeared in the *Journal of Laryngology and Otology*, vol. xxvii., June 1912.—I am, etc., B. PEARCE STURM.