

The Journal of Laryngology and Otology

(Founded in 1887 by MORELL MACKENZIE and NORRIS WOLFENDEN)

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Editorial notice to contributors

FOR over twenty years this Journal has provided a service which few contributors and fewer readers have noticed.

Inside the cover of each issue are printed instructions for contributors. Paragraph 2 gives guidance to the author on how to present the list of references. Very many contributors ignore this advice. The Journal has employed a librarian to check the references, and where necessary to reorganize the list to the standard form. For this to be efficiently done it has been necessary to find a librarian with access to a comprehensive medical library, and with enough time to undertake this task. It appears that people with these qualifications no longer exist, and we have been unable to replace the retiring librarian who has been doing this exacting work.

In future the task of presenting the references will be entirely the author's responsibility. Before a paper is accepted for publication the references will be carefully studied, and any list of references which is incorrectly set out will be returned to the author for correction. We would like to emphasize that it is the duty of the contributor personally to check each individual reference, and also to check that the date of the reference in the text corresponds with the year of the reference in the list.

This change will no doubt cause some irritation to authors, but if we are to maintain the high standard of accuracy of our

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reference lists there is no alternative, in the absence of professional librarian help.

The Directors of the Journal regret that it is no longer possible to provide this service for authors, but we are confident that the great majority of contributors will respond by careful and accurate presentation of references.

G.H.B.
Editor