

THE
JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY,
RHINOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.

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Authors of Original Communications on Oto-laryngology in other Journals are invited to send a copy, or two reprints, to the JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY. If they are willing, at the same time, to submit their own abstract (in English, French, Italian or German) it will be welcomed.

THE JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY.

Now that the great war has come to a successful termination and we are preparing for a renewal, and, indeed, for an increase in normal peace activities, the Editorial Committee of this JOURNAL has arranged several changes in our programme which we hope and expect will improve the standing and also the circulation of the JOURNAL.

To begin with, in response to a strongly-expressed desire, plans have been laid to make our Abstract columns a full and complete reflection of the world literature of our speciality. A list of the titles of all articles published elsewhere, bearing upon our regions, will be printed every month for the use of workers who may be interested in particular sections of the field, while at the same time representative abstracts of the more important articles will appear, very much as at present in style, but, it is hoped, on a larger and more representative scale.

In order that this department of the work may be kept up to date the Editor and the Editorial Committee agreed that it should be placed under the special charge of an Abstracts Editor, and they have much pleasure in intimating that Mr. W. D. Harmer, whose excellent work as Secretary of the Section of Laryngology at the International Congress of 1913 is still fresh in our minds, has kindly consented to undertake this responsible duty.

The Editorial Committee desire it to be known that authors of articles are invited to send to the JOURNAL copies of any of their articles which may have appeared elsewhere, in home or foreign journals, for abstracting purposes, and if they prefer to make their own abstracts the Editorial Staff will be only too pleased to make use of them.

While so much attention is being paid to the abstracting side of our work we are also anxious to encourage as much as possible what has hitherto been the weak part of our activities, and that is the production of original papers and articles.

Prior to the war our scientific activity, measured, as it may justly be,

by the amount of published works, was by no means commensurate either with the importance of our speciality or with the rich opportunities at our disposal.

At the present time, however, there are strong indications visible of the rise of a new and energetic spirit in our countries, and we may look forward with hope and high confidence to our speciality sharing in the new life that is rising to flood all departments of national activity, and it is intended that the JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY will provide for all workers in our speciality a means of publicity at once easily accessible and popular.

Easily accessible. Because we wish to emphasise the fact that we represent no particular school, or clique, or style, or opinion. These columns are open to all who have anything to say that may seem to them to be of value or of interest to their fellow-practitioners, and we call upon all such to lend a hand to make the JOURNAL as broadly representative of British Oto-Laryngology as they can, in order to sustain and to enhance the high standing we have already been successful in reaching in our special department of medicine.

WARFARE INJURIES OF THE LARYNX.¹

BY W. DOUGLAS HARMER, M.C.CANTAB., F.R.C.S.ENG.

MR. PRESIDENT,—I must thank the Council for honouring me with the invitation to open the discussion on this subject.

In the following paper I have thought it wise to confine my remarks to the description of gun-shot wounds of the larynx, these cases forming a large and important group in military surgery.

To obtain the necessary information investigations have been carried out on wide lines and 245 patients have been discovered, including:

GROUP I.—108 cases, particulars of which have been obtained partly by personal observations (24), and partly as the result of circulating a letter to 80 laryngologists in Great Britain and France, notes having been received from—Brown Kelly 18, Howarth 6, Rose 4, Tilley 4, E. D. D. Davies 4, Whale 4, Milligan 3, Mollison 3, Smurthwaite 3, Abercrombie, StClair Thomson, Seymour Jones, Hastings, Wilkinson, Graham, O'Malley, Wylie, and West 2 each, MacGregor, Westmacott, Wright, Peters, Buckland Jones, Dundas Grant, French, Hill, Hutchinson, Low, Bain, Whillis, Faulder, Tod, Stewart, and Woods 1 each.

GROUP II.—110 cases, the notes of which were obtained by examining the records of 1873 patients suffering from gun-shot wounds of the neck and treated in home hospitals during 1914 and 1915. These notes were largely valueless because of the absence of accurate details, but the investigations brought out the relative frequency of injuries of the larynx in neck wounds (1 in 17 cases). Moure states that in the Crimean War the proportion was 1 in 460. Delorme gives 3 per cent. in the present war.

GROUP III.—23 *post-mortem* specimens obtained from the Royal College of Surgeons, a selection of which has been exhibited to-day. Also 4 fatal cases, notes of which were supplied by Capt. Whale.

Although these groups only include a fair proportion of the larynx

¹ Introductory paper to a discussion on "Warfare Injuries of the Upper Air Passages," read before the Laryngological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, June 7th, 1918.