

Letter to the Editors

serve its sensibility, traced from their central origin to their terminal ramifications.

Possibly one of the best parts of this volume is devoted to the examination of the air passages; the various positions of the examiner and patient are well shown, and there is an excellent description of the instrumentarium.

With a penultimate chapter on radiography, as used in examination of the sinuses and thoracic contents, the volume concludes with a short description of the present status of immunology, as it affects our particular work.

If the very high standard contained in this volume is maintained, the whole work should form an almost complete reference library in itself, and as such, should be found on the shelves in every oto-laryngological clinic. Though at first its bulk may almost appear so impressive as to daunt the ambitions of those aspiring to specialise in this direction, it may serve to raise our standards by weeding out those who may attempt this work too lightly, and who may regard it erroneously as an easy proposition; at the same time, by the more determined and serious it will be accepted as an ever-ready reference help, and act as a stimulus to further endeavour.

ALEX. R. TWEEDIE.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS.

SEPTIC INFECTION FOLLOWING OPERATIONS ON THE MAXILLARY ANTRUM.

THE EDITORS,

Journal of Laryngology and Otology.

SIRS,—As the endotracheal method of anæsthesia was mentioned in the discussion on Dr Dan McKenzie's case of acute pulmonary infection (*Journ. of Laryn. and Otol.*, October 1925, p. 665) may I point out that this method of administration, as usually carried out, does not ensure the ejection of blood or septic material, which may enter the trachea, nor does it prevent obstruction to respiration from accumulations in the upper part of the throat. I have used, in addition to the ordinary tracheal catheter, a shorter tube for expiratory purposes, with packing placed round both, filling the naso-pharynx, mouth, or both cavities, as needed. The results were good but not, I think, better than those attained by older and simpler means, such

Obituary

as inserting a soft sponge into the naso-pharynx, or packing the posterior choanæ, and by placing gauze round a Hewitt's airway in the mouth.

I need hardly add that packing should be done thoroughly, but gently, otherwise it causes soreness of the palate and damages the lining of the nose (possibly with adhesions as after-effects); moreover, fluids are not so well absorbed by close packing as when the material is inserted more loosely.—I am, etc., J. D. MORTIMER.

LONDON, 22nd October 1925.

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR HENRI LUC (Paris)
(1855-1925).

WE cannot allow the grave to close over Henri Luc without trying to express something of what we, as laryngologists, feel that we owe to him.

Luc may be described as a man of great intelligence. With his forehead modelled à la *Verlaine* and with the clear eyes of the thinker, he impressed us strongly at first sight; the impression grew upon us as we talked with him, not only about medicine, but upon the many subjects which interested him, literature, art, and foreign languages, for the last of which he possessed a veritable *flair*.

At the very outset of his career, Luc was conscious of the limitations of our specialty, as it was then practised in France. For this reason he went to Vienna, in 1887, in order to study the more recent methods which were coming into notice in that city. On his return home, he adapted them to practice in France, giving to them, at the same time, the special touch of his original mind. It was then that he commenced to treat the local suppurative conditions by radical methods, which hitherto had scarcely been attempted.

In 1889, in conjunction with Dr Ruault, he founded the *Archives Internationales d'Oto-Rhino-Laryngologie*, a journal which he continued to direct till 1896. Its pages contained much original matter and an analysis of the most important articles published abroad. In this way he kept his colleagues in touch with the developments in the specialty. Amongst the most notable of his own writings, at this period of his career, was an article upon suppuration in the maxillary sinus, and a memoir on ozena of the trachea, an affection not previously described. In 1892, he published a treatise on laryngeal neuropathies, which very quickly went out of print.