

OBITUARY

DR J. MOLINIÉ (Marseilles).

1870-1931.

WE regret to record the premature death of the leading Oto-laryngologist of Marseilles. He had been President of the Société Française d'Oto-Laryngologie and in the pages of its Transactions had contributed interesting communications on Nasal Hydrorrhœa (1901) and on the Singing Voice (1926).

He was also responsible for the chapter on Malignant Tumours of the Larynx in the large *Traité Pratique d'Oto-Rhino-Laryngologie*, published by Doin. Dr Molinié attended the International Congress of Medicine in London, in 1913, and had many friends in this country.

ST C. T.

LETTER TO EDITOR

THE EDITOR,

Journal of Laryngology and Otology.

SIR,—Dr. Dan McKenzie, in his interesting paper on otosclerosis, differentiates his cases into primary or true otosclerosis and secondary or catarrhal. This latter group includes all those cases in which deafness is associated with catarrhal conditions of the nose and throat, and in which operative treatment is frequently undertaken with the object of curing the catarrh, and so staying or improving the hearing. In the presence of nasal obstruction or other cause of nasal catarrh, it is sometimes difficult to decide whether one should advise such operative treatment. The object of this letter is to call attention to a test, which I have used now for several years, to help in coming to a decision. The test depends on the fact that shrinking up the mucous membrane of the nose with cocaine and adrenalin results in a certain number of the cases in an immediate improvement in hearing. The test is quite simply applied. After noting the condition of the nose, throat and ear, the hearing tests are done, but no Eustachian inflation or movement of the drum is practised. The nose is then sprayed with a solution of equal parts of 10 per cent. cocaine and adrenalin. As soon as the nasal mucous membrane has shrunk the hearing tests are repeated. In true otosclerosis the hearing is never improved. Acting on this test, I have operated on a number of cases, in which the hearing was improved, and the immediate results have seemed to justify this method of selection.—

Yours truly,

HAROLD KISCH.

15 WIMPOLE STREET,
CAVENDISH SQUARE, W. 1,

6th February 1932.