

LETTER TO EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR,

The Journal of Laryngology and Otology.

SIR,—On pages 865-6 of the December (1937) number of this Journal there appears an abstract of an article by E. M. Seydell on "Spontaneous Perforation of the Wall of the Chest by an Aspirated Foreign Body". The article includes details of eleven cases, the two earliest of which were first reported in the year 1818.

In this connection it is interesting to recall the following entry in the diary of John Evelyn under the date, December 4th, 1661:—" I had much discourse with the Duke of York concerning strange cures, he affirmed of a woman who swallow'd a whole ear of barley which worked out at her side."

I am, etc.,

THOMAS GUTHRIE.

Liverpool.

December, 1937.