

Letter to the Editor

up of the overlying mucosa. The salpingo-pharyngeal muscles contract and stand out as folds which narrow the transverse diameter. The levator muscles sling the palate upwards and backwards to meet the ridge of Passavant which is produced by the contraction of the transverse fibres of the superior constrictor muscles. During continuous speech the palate remains elevated but still a measurable distance from the posterior pharyngeal wall, complete closure seems to occur below the limits of vision.

During deglutition the palate rises as in speech but as the bolus passes over the back of the tongue the palate is flattened out by the action of the tensor muscle.

Blowing out the cheeks causes the maximum elevation of the palate and contraction of the walls of the nasopharynx.

W. H. BRADBEER.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THE NASO-PULMONARY REFLEX

TO THE EDITOR,

The Journal of Laryngology and Otology.

SIR,—In the discussion after his paper on this subject (*Journal*, June, p. 409) Mr. Maxwell Ellis, basing on his experiments on dogs and on anatomical considerations, doubts the possibility :—

(1) of an ipsilateral bronchial reflex from stimulus to one nostril and

(2) of peristaltic movements in the bronchi.

He will find evidence for both in *Otologica Slavica*, December, 1932 (iv., pp. 173, 186).

As to ipsilateral reflex I have several times in asthmatics seen clinical evidence suggestive of this and mentioned it in the first edition of my book on asthma (1913). Brown Kelly, Prof. T. K. Monro in this country, La Forge in America, Hofbauer in Vienna and others have expressed themselves in the same sense. However, in the journal named and also in an article which he kindly contributed at my request to a symposium on asthma in the *Medical Press and Circular* (May 15th, 1935, p. 476) Prof. Sercer of Zagreb records the results of his long-continued experiments on laryngectomized men—not on dogs—conclusively proving, among other things, the existence of an ipsilateral reflex and that the clinicians have been right. Mr. Ellis himself remarks on the

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difference between the human and the canine nose and suggests rightly that the former may be more sensitive to certain stimuli. Do dogs ever sneeze ?

As to peristaltic movement or something resembling it, Prof. Popovic's paper in the Slav journal supports this idea which is strongly suggested to any one doing routine lipiodol injections.

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June 30th, 1936.