

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## "THE CONSERVATIVE MASTOID OPERATION."

To the Editor of THE JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY, RHINOLOGY, AND  
OTOLOGY.

SIR.—I have read your review of Mr. C. J. Heath's book, "Otitis Media." The impression it leaves with me is, that you have not given it enough study before writing.

Your review, professing to deal fairly with "Otitis Media," deals vaguely with such a lot besides the statements in that book that this, combined with inaccuracies in your criticisms, compels me to say that my faith in Mr. Heath's teaching is as yet unshaken. I have read the book over and over again, and I cannot find any statement in it to justify your opening sentence, that "Mr. C. J. Heath expresses surprise, . . . that in a certain modern text-book on Otolology no mention whatever is made of his 'Conservative Mastoid Operation.'"

Taking the inaccuracy of this opening sentence and hanging on it your concluding gibe, I laid your review down with my faith shaken in the disinterestedness of some scientific spirits.

Further, I do not see why Mr. Heath should complain that text-books ignore his operation, for it results in a large number of surgeons requesting his permission to see him operate, and some of them I have met there are at the top of the profession.

Then, again, in the middle of your review you say: "Does he, then, say that it is suitable for every variety of middle-ear suppuration." In "Otitis Media" Mr. Heath plainly states that his treatment is for the "early cases only," in order to preserve the hearing before the apparatus of the ear is irreparably damaged.

Mr. Heath's operation and treatment was founded on his pathology; each confirms and justifies the other.

Further, there was no place for such an operation as a standard procedure until Mr. Heath laid down the foundation for it—that is, the proof that the antrum is practically always the chief seat of the disease in early chronic, *i. e.* non-acute cases.

Having been an army surgeon, I have seen the disastrous results of the treatment advocated in text-books. The results I have hitherto seen of Mr. Heath's methods of treatment encourage me to continue them.

I am, etc.,

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