

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TREATMENT OF INTRINSIC LARYNGEAL CANCER (SURGERY OR RADIATION)

TO THE EDITOR,

The Journal of Laryngology and Otology.

SIR,—In July 1937 you were good enough to publish (in *The Journal of Laryngology* (Vol. LII, No. 7)) a critical review of the treatment of Intrinsic Laryngeal Cancer wherein I contrasted the results obtained by Surgical excision (Laryngofissure) with those which could be obtained by Radiation (Finzi-Harmer operation). In this review, when discussing Radiation therapy, though I mentioned that a five-year period was preferable, I adopted a three-year symptom-free rate to enable comparison with the survival rates following Laryngofissure as published by St Clair Thomson and others. Since the date of this review many of the cases included in the statistical tables then recorded, have now passed the five-year period. It occurred to me, therefore, that some of your readers might be interested to know the further history of those cases treated by Radiation.

In presenting these new figures of a " five-year symptom-free rate " I must point out that the original article, though written at the end of 1936 was not published until July 1937, and so it comes about that in estimating the three-year symptom-free rate then adopted (*vide* Table B, page 466) only those cases, eighteen, treated between the period 1931-33, were included. At the present date twenty-three cases (of the full total of twenty-six cases—*vide* Table A, page 465) fall within the period 1931-34. Of these twenty-three cases, seventeen (73·9 per cent.) are alive and well to-day, free of recurrence, five have died of their disease, and the sixth died of cancer of the palate twenty months after treatment. This five-year symptom-free rate of 73·9 per cent., gives some impression of the results which can be achieved by the modern technique of Radiation in limited Intrinsic Laryngeal Cancers.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

F. HOLT DIGGLE.

January 1940.