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**DR. WATSON WILLIAMS ON THE EDUCATION OF THE
SPECIALIST.**

WE recommend our readers to peruse with care the Presidential Address delivered at the opening of the present Session of the Laryngological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, as it contains a vigorously worded plea for the institution of special university degrees for those who propose to take up these subjects. Dr. Watson Williams expresses great anxiety that our specialty should not become a mere adjunct of surgery as such, an opinion which is all the more striking coming, as it does, from one whose contributions to the surgery of the organs we have to deal with have been by no means inconsiderable. Many have been forced to the opinion that the surgical side tends to be excessively developed to the detriment of the more purely conservative, and the means of arriving at a middle course is much to be desired; he suggests that general practice is, on the whole, a better preparation for our specialty than surgery pure and simple. He would wish to see the establishment of special degrees preceded by a special course of training, and he sees disadvantages following the tendency on the part of many who wish to take a good position in our department to prepare for and pass severe examinations in medicine or in surgery at a period of life when the benefit of humanity and the advancement of our specialities would be better studied by their devoting themselves to original research and

observation. No doubt it is indispensable that those who undertake the present-day treatment of diseases of the throat, nose, and ear must be thoroughly imbued with the principles of modern surgery, and the higher surgical examinations will probably offer the best means of testing the practitioner's knowledge in this respect. The difficulties of the case are met to a considerable extent by arrangements for special examinations for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, even though it may to a small extent be open to the objections expressed by Dr. Watson Williams, but we recommend our readers to study his *ipsissima verba*.

A NEW OTOLOGICAL AND LARYNGOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

A SCOTTISH Otolological and Laryngological Society has been formed, and the first meeting was held on November 11, in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, under the chairmanship of Dr. Logan Turner. Afterwards the members present, to the number of twenty-four, dined together at the Caledonian Station Hotel. For the present it is proposed to hold two meetings in the year, one in Edinburgh and one in Glasgow. The next will be held in Glasgow, under the chairmanship of Dr. Thomas Barr. The secretary for 1910-11 is Dr. W. S. Syme, Glasgow.

This Society has every prospect of a successful career, if we may judge—as no doubt we are justified in doing—by the output of our Scottish otologists and laryngologists in the form of contributions to the proceedings of societies as well as in original text-books and monographs. There has always been considerable difficulty in arranging for the meetings of the Otolological and Laryngological Societies in London so as to meet the convenience of the metropolitan, provincial, and the Scottish members at the same time. It has been cordially acknowledged that the Metropolitan members have endeavoured in every way to facilitate the removal of these difficulties, but from unavoidable circumstances this has never been successfully accomplished, and no doubt one result of this is the formation of the new Scottish Society. It is to be hoped that its existence will not deprive their *confrères* in the south of the benefit of discussing with them the cases and questions in regard to which their opinions have always been so highly valued, and, in any case, we look forward to affording our readers a valuable and interesting addition to the contents of our