

Royal Society of Medicine

at 2 or 3 months of age, while complete pneumatization has been seen by 7 months. The process itself is present, though small, at birth.

Referring to established cases of cholesteatoma, Miss Hall commented on the frequent failure of radiological examination to help in diagnosis, particularly of early cases.

THE PRESIDENT, in replying to the discussion, said that the question had arisen as to the bilateral occurrence of this condition. Of course it was quite commonly bilateral. They must all have seen many cases in which bilateral cholesteatosis was present. A diffuse cholesteatosis was quite commonly met with.

As to Mr. Watson-Williams's point about the etymology, he thought it was quite legitimate to think of the condition as a process, a continuing process, and the suffix "osis" would bear such an interpretation.

LETTER TO EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR, *The Journal of Laryngology and Otology*.

SIR,

In the March number of the Journal you kindly printed a note about the formation and objects of a Joint Advisory Committee in Oto-laryngology. By some unfortunate error in transcription, the Royal College of Surgeons of England was omitted from the list published in the Journal of the bodies responsible for the formation of the Committee. The College played a large part in the formation of the Committee and nominated as its representative Mr. V. E. Negus, and this should have been included.

The hospitals in Gray's Inn Road and Golden Square had for many years acted in an advisory capacity as well as in an educational one to post-graduate students. Since their amalgamation this dual function has been taken over by the associated Institute of Laryngology. The Royal College of Surgeons of England has set up an advisory post-graduate bureau in Lincoln's Inn Fields and has formed advisory committees in several specialties. It was thought that, rather than set up a new body for Oto-laryngology, it would be better to set up a joint Committee of the College and the Institute. At the same time it was felt that the widest possible national representation should be obtained, and the British Medical Association, the British Association of Oto-laryngologists and the British Post-graduate Medical Federation were invited to participate and to nominate representatives. These three bodies agreed and made the nomination as listed and thus the Joint Advisory Committee was formed. An interim note on the formation of this Committee was included in the Annual Report of the Council of the British Association of Oto-laryngologists, which was circulated to every member and was reprinted in the Journal of January, 1950.

I am Sir,

Yours faithfully,

F. C. ORMEROD.