

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

TO THE EDITORS,

The Journal of Laryngology.

SIRS,—I should like to raise the question of the production of a British Atlas of Laryngology, and to indicate sources from which part of its contents might be drawn.

No apology for this suggestion is necessary, as a purely British Atlas of our specialty has never—to my knowledge—been published; hitherto we have been dependent upon foreign works or English translations of these.

I am led to make this appeal not only because an atlas is a desideratum, but also on account of the material available for inclusion in a work of this kind.

I refer in particular to drawings, or the blocks themselves, that have served to illustrate papers dealing with our specialty published in this and other journals, also in monographs and in text-books no longer in circulation.

Rare and interesting conditions have been depicted not infrequently in the smaller or local medical journals; and some of the out of date text-books contain illustrations which are still unsurpassed.

In the case of drawings and blocks considered suitable, arrangements for their reappearance in an atlas could probably be made with the owners.

In addition to these older sources there are others. Many of us have laid aside sketches of unusual appearances which singly may scarcely warrant publication, but with several of an allied nature would help to form a valuable series. You, Sirs, at the last meeting of the Scottish Otological and Laryngological Society exhibited a large collection of drawings and water-colour sketches, many of which ought to be published.

This raises the question of cost. At present, the price of blocks and all expenses incidental to the issue of a new work are abnormally high. I am not advocating, however, the immediate production of an atlas but its preparation. In the years that must elapse before the material at disposal could be selected and arranged, new sketches made and descriptions written, costs are likely to have fallen.

A work of the kind outlined would probably be best issued at intervals in fasciculi, each containing one or more plates devoted to nose, pharynx, larynx, etc., respectively. The titles, or even the