

## LETTER TO EDITOR

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

DEAR SIR,

I hope to consider a reinvestigation of the phenomena associated with bone conducted hearing. In particular I am interested in those paradoxical cases in which bone conduction is grossly diminished or absent, whilst air conduction remains comparatively good. This is referred to by many authors, but I must confess I have never, in the course of ten years audiometry, encountered such a patient.

Dederding, *Acta Oto-Laryngologica*, Supplementum X, page 20, says:

"In many patients a remarkable circumstance with respect to bone conduction was observed, namely that it was abridged, indeed had quite disappeared, together with a fully preserved hearing of whisper, and comparatively good air conduction."

Unfortunately all reports such as these are based on tuning fork tests and the whispered voice, and for various reasons I consider these unreliable. In particular, masking was neglected.

I should be very grateful if you would publish this letter in the *Journal of Laryngology*, with a request for any information which our colleagues can supply. More precisely, I shall be very grateful if any otologist can give me details of any patient he has seen with this condition. What tests were applied and what suggestions can he make to explain the condition?

Yours sincerely,

ALEX. TUMARKIN.

May 7th, 1946.