

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

JOURNAL in the shape of the proceedings of the Scottish Otological and Laryngological Society, to which we offer our most hearty good wishes.

**THE EDUCATION OF THE SPECIALIST IN LARYNGOLOGY
RHINOLOGY, AND OTOTOLOGY.**

A PLEA FOR GRADUATION ON A BROAD BASIS.

*The Presidential Address at the opening of the Session 1910-11 of
the Laryngological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine.*

BY P. WATSON WILLIAMS, M.D.LOND., ETC.,

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Otology; in charge of Department for Diseases of Nose, Throat, and
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Laryngology, University of Bristol, etc.

ἡ ἀνεξέταστος βίος οὐ βιωτὸς (The life without examination is not worth living).—
Plato.

GENTLEMEN,—In electing me as President of the Laryngological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, I am conscious that you have paid me the highest honour that it is in your power to bestow. I wish sincerely I could feel equally conscious of being worthy to follow my two distinguished predecessors in office. Of one thing, however, I am certain, that is, the pervading harmony which exists between the members of this Section, amongst whom criticisms are offered with only the friendly desire to help one another in points of difficulty, or to advance knowledge in this special branch of medical science, and it will be my constant aim to maintain this spirit of confraternity.

Coming from Bristol, where, as you are aware, we have recently developed a University, my thoughts have perforce been turned in the direction of educational matters, and as a lecturer on diseases of the nose, throat, and ear, I have given much consideration to the position of our own speciality in medical education, which in the interests of practitioners and of patients leaves something to be desired.

We hear it said that this is a day of specialism, and specialism in medicine and surgery is thought to be a modern development. Yet we learn from the Ebers' papyrus that in the thirteenth century B.C. patients applying for relief to the medical temple at Thebes had to state their complaint, and that it was left to the principal of the medical staff to send the specialist best suited for