The book is intended for general practitioners, but such readers should avoid looking upon its dicta as representing modern British opinion. Thus very few throat-surgeons in this country would support the author's "rule" on p. 237 in dealing with tonsillotomy: "Never employ the guillotine." It is strange to notice, by the way, how slowly tonsillectomy seems to be making its way on the Continent. The difficulty, of course, lies in inducing men to substitute a major for a minor surgical procedure, but there is no doubt that total removal of the gland, with all its dangers and difficulties, has come to stay.

Dan McKenzie.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

We are indebted for the following note to our esteemed contemporary, *The Medical Press*, December 31, 1919.

"Guaiacol as an Anæsthetic.

"Dr. Georges Laurens advises the use of guaiacol as an anæsthetic for the more ordinary operations on the ear, nose and throat. As regards the ear, and more especially paracentesis of the drum, he employs a solution of synthetic guaiacol in oil. The latter should be prepared in the manner recommended by Lucas Championnière. Very pure olive oil should first be treated with chloride of zinc in order to get rid of resinous and proteid substances, then washed with alcohol to remove any fatty acids formed, and finally it should be kept at a temperature of 100° C. for some time. The product thus obtained is extremely pure.

"Dr. Laurens at first made use of a 1 in 10 solution of guaiacol, but he soon abandoned it in favour of a 1 in 20 solution, as he found that the latter produced quite satisfactory anæsthesia. As regards the technique, he follows very closely that recommended by Dr. Lermoyez. The ear is cleansed first with tepid sterile water, and then with a solution of carbolic acid. Five or six drops of the guaiacol solution are next introduced into the ear and allowed to remain during fifteen or twenty minutes. It is then removed by means of a tampon of cotton-wool, so that the passage is quite clear and the operator may see what he is doing.

"For the operations in the nose and throat, the solution is applied by repeated paintings. The quantity of solution used has never been more than 2 c.c.

"It is important to note that anæsthesia is obtained much more slowly than with cocaine. With the latter ten minutes sufficed, but with guaiacol one must wait at least fifteen or twenty minutes."

Otological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine.

The next meeting of this Section will be held on February 20, 1920. Notices and papers to be in hand not later than February 8. Secretaries: Mr. H. Buckland Jones and Mr. Lionel Colledge.

Laryngological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine.

The next meeting of this Section will be held on March 5, 1920. Notices and papers to be in hand not later than February 23. Secretaries: Dr. Irwin Moore and Mr. Charles W. Hope.

BOOK RECEIVED.

Oto-Rhino-Laryngology for the Student and Practitioner. By *Dr. Georges Laurens.* Authorised English Translation of the Second Revised French Edition, by *H. Clayton Fox, F.R.C.S.(Irel.)*; with a Foreword contributed by *J. Dundas Grant, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S.* With 592 illustrations. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd., 1919. Price 17*s.* 6*d.*

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