of the Naval Medical Board, I ventured to write to the Director General asking for a ruling on the subject.

Sir Robert Hill very kindly allows me to send you his reply for publication in the Journal. It will, I think, save many youngsters from operations which, in the strict surgical sense, are unnecessary.—Yours truly,

E. B. WAGGETT.

LONDON.

SIR ROBERT HILL'S REPLY.

Many thanks for your letter.

It is very seldom that we disqualify a boy for throat trouble alone, and certainly *never* for simple hypertrophy of the tonsils. Of course, adenoids, when discovered, have to be removed before joining Dartmouth, but they would not by themselves disqualify a boy.

In cases of deafness which appear to us to be due to adenoids, we usually turn down the boy and strongly advise the parents to appeal, when we call in a throat and ear specialist. If he concurs that removal of the adenoids will clear up the deafness, the parents are advised to have it done, and the boy comes up for examination and, if all right, he goes in.

In questionable cases with glands and a not too strong chest, a pair of ragged, unhealthy tonsils, would probably prejudice the Board against the boy.

I wonder if I have made myself clear. Do, please, write again if there are any points I have missed.—Yours, etc.,

ROBERT HILL.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
THE ADMIRALTY, 19/4/23.

TO THE EDITORS,

The Journal of Laryngology and Otology.

DEAR SIRS,—I am sorry to inflict a further letter upon you. After all, we are in search of knowledge, and wish only to get the best results for our patients. In spite of Dr Guthrie's modification in the operation on the mastoid, I cannot yet accept Mr Tilley's teaching as sound. It may be because I am far away in the Antipodes where we have, necessarily, to depend almost solely upon our own experience!

The operation is done to get rid of purulent and necrotic processes in the antrum and mastoid, and at the same time to restore the middle ear to its normal, functioning state.

Accepting Dr Guthrie's modification, if it be such, of "Bipping" the cavity before closure, that does not do away with the necessity

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022215100024956 Published online by Cambridge University Press