Dr. Love's well-known work upon this subject is given, with additional facts, and the measures to be taken for the prevention of acquired deafness are summarised. A short chapter on the hearing test asserts that the best is some form of speech, and advocates the "six-foot rule," *i. e.*, that a child whose hearing is below that measure for whispered speech cannot profitably remain in the ordinary classes of an elementary school.

Chapter VI is occupied by a masterly exposition of hereditary deafness from the Mendelian point of view, and, after a few words upon educational arrangements, the book proceeds to general considerations on the medical treatment of school children. It is pointed out that the parents of children with deafness and children with running ears are, as a rule, ignorant of the dangers of these conditions and of the possibilities of treatment, and that this ignorance can best be dispelled by the carrying out of effective treatment through school clinics by the school authorities. Moreover, the solution of the problem of the prevention of deafness and of ear diseases lies ultimately in better housing, better feeding, and more sunlight. Nearly all deafness is due to infectious disease or wrong marrying. Hereditary deafness treated on Mendelian principles for two or three generations would become a curiosity.

Dr. Kerr Love's book should be perused by every otologist; it contains lessons for all. *Macleod Yearsley.*

"THE CONSERVATIVE MASTOID OPERATION."

To the Editor of THE JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY, RHINOLOGY, AND OTOLOGY.

SIR,—I have read in your March number the criticism on Heath's "Conservative Mastoid Operation."

From my experience of Heath's operation I find it applicable in a big percentage of operable cases.

The more experience I have of this particular operation, the more convinced I have become of its value to otologists.

It has undoubtedly come to stay, and its advocates are perceptibly increasing in number.

Mr. Heath's one ambition is to conserve the hearing, and if he succeeds in this we must commend his attempt to improve the lamentably lethargic condition which exists at the present moment.

The surgical instruments that he has introduced for this particular operation are very ingenious, workmanlike, and exceedingly adaptable.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

18, UPPER WIMPOLE STREET, W. 1. MILSOM REES.
March 27, 1919.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Dr. A. J. Brady, of Sydney, Australia, writes under date December 30, 1918: "We had a congress of specialists in Melbourne last November. It was notable as being the first of its kind held in this part of the world. We had representatives from all the States of the Commonwealth with the exception of Western Australia, which, however, might be counted to have one in the person of Mr. Andrew, formerly of Perth, now practising in Melbourne. New Zealand was also represented. It was a combined congress of ophthalmic surgeons and oto-rhino-laryngologists. I was honoured by being asked to be president of the latter

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