

Letters to the Editor

stretching. Even in the model, admittedly imperfect, the cords are merely rendered tense. Tension, to our mind, need not be synonymous with stretching; it may actually imply contraction.

We are sorry to trouble you with this long explanation, but it seems only fair that the reviewer should be given an opportunity of re-investigating this matter as he has dealt so kindly with the writers in all other respects.

We are, Sir,

Yours very truly,

GEORGE SETH,

DOUGLAS GUTHRIE.

4 Rothesay Place,
Edinburgh.

January 20th, 1936.

TO THE EDITOR,

The Journal of Laryngology and Otology.

SIR,—I thank you for allowing me to read the letter from Mr. Seth and Dr. Guthrie before its publication. As the anonymous reviewer concerned I hasten to offer my apologies to these gentlemen for my inaccuracy. I regret that my name was not appended to the review; I had looked forward to the possibility of receiving a nice letter of appreciation from Mr. Seth and Dr. Guthrie for my complimentary references to their book.

I have now re-examined Fig. 10 and I acknowledge my mistake in saying that a weight pulled the arytenoids backwards, thus indicating stretching of the vocal cords. I see that the weight is actually pulling the anterior ends of the vocal cords forwards. This is worse than ever.

I had already read page 22 and had taken pains to comprehend the authors' exposition of the action of the laryngeal muscles during phonation, as the subject is one of considerable interest to me, and one I have always found to be fraught with difficulty.

Mr. Seth and Dr. Guthrie are more sorry than hurt at my lack of perception, and state that others will not place the same misconstruction on the diagram. I am of opinion, on the contrary, that many readers will not take so much trouble to arrive at a clear understanding of the writers' meaning, and will, like myself, be misled.

I still dislike Fig. 10, but it appears to satisfy the authors and therefore I presume it will reappear in further editions of the book. If so, I shall have to ask your permission, Sir, to be entrusted with the task of writing a fresh review when the time comes.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

V. E. NEGUS.