

THE
MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XIX.

MARCH, 1891.

No. 9.

Original Communications.

HEMIATROPHIA LINGUÆ OF EXTRA-CRANIAL
ORIGIN.

By H. S. BIRKETT, M.D.,

Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy, McGill University; Laryngologist to the
Montreal Dispensary.

(Read before the Canadian Medical Association, at Toronto, September 11th, 1890.)

This case concerns a young man, W. C. B., aged 23 years, a bank clerk, who, in November 1889, consulted me in reference to a sensation of phlegm dropping from the back of the throat, or, as he called it, "catarrh," from which he had suffered for about one year.

Proceeding to examine the case, I was at once struck, when the patient opened his mouth, with the position of the tongue. It lay on the floor of the mouth, its tip pointing to the left and beyond the mesial line, and not in its normal position, as Gowers holds it to be when the hypoglossal nerve of one side is paralyzed,* (*vide* accompanying drawing, Fig. 1); the right half is observed to be more bulky and stands more prominently in front of the opposite half, which is much retracted and hidden by the bulkiness of the other side, due to the retraction of the genio-hyoglossus muscle of the left side.

Upon the patient protruding his tongue the exactly opposite conditions are to be noticed. (Fig. 2.) The tip deviates at once to the right side and turns beyond the middle line to the right. The right half is noticed to be much smaller: its surface

* Gowers: "Diseases of the Nervous System," 1888. Vol. ii, p. 275.