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## Original Communications.

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### ON THE ETIOLOGY AND SYMPTOMATOLOGY OF GOITRE.\*

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The persistent and recognisable enlargements of the thyroid gland which we classify under the name of Goitre or Bronchocele, are from almost every aspect a pain to the pathologist, even if like so many human ills to so many patients, an interesting pain. He knows not their cause: when he comes to study them histologically, the changes they present are bewildering in their manifoldness: his medical and surgical colleagues have provided him—perhaps it would be more courteous, if not more correct, to say, can provide him—with singularly few data whereby to recognise different forms of disease associated with different anatomical lesions, and so to establish a useful classification; while when symptoms are present the explanations he can offer as to the mode of development of the same, are such that he has found it hard even

\* The following address has had a somewhat checkered career, nor do I feel that I can well publish it in these pages without a word or two of explanation. In its first form it began to develop itself as one of the opening addresses in the discussion upon "Goitre," held by the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society upon June 12th, 1899. At that period I felt so uncertain about the conclusions I had reached that the latter half of the address was not committed to paper save in the form of rough notes, simply because it would not work itself out to my satisfaction. In this incomplete form I had an excuse for not publishing it in this JOURNAL, but when during the autumn the clamour of the Editor became so persistent that I had to take up the address for publication along with the other proceedings of the Society in question, then upon settling down to the matter I had to all intents and purposes to rewrite the first portion of the address, and then also I came to conclusions with regard to the second portion much in advance of those given at the Medico-Chirurgical Society. Thus in its totally revised form I delivered the address as a "clinical lecture" at the Cook County Hospital, Chicago, Nov. 30th, 1899. Under the circumstances, as this originated in an address given before our Society, Mr. Malcolm Morris, Editor of the *Practitioner*, has very kindly consented that it should appear in this JOURNAL coincidentally with its appearance in his