

CANADA
MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL

JANUARY, 1886.

Original Communications.

INNERVATION OF THE HEART OF THE SLIDER
TERRAPIN (*PSEUDEMYS RUGOSA*).

(Continued.)

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One of the greatest results of the new heart physiology has been the fresh light thrown on the functions of the vagus nerve. Formerly the vagus was regarded as the motor nerve of the heart, and as acting chiefly as a controller or inhibitor. This view must, in the light of the most recent investigations, now be modified. Before discussing the mode of action of the pneumogastric, a few well-established facts may be stated.

Both Gaskell and Heidenhain have shown that primary acceleration of the rhythm of the heart is a frequent result of stimulation of the vagus in the *frog*. The former observer states that he has in no case seen this effect in the *land tortoise*. Though I have myself often looked for it in the *slider terrapin*, and tried by varying the strength of the stimulating current to produce it, I have seen it in but one case; in that case, however, the acceleration was very marked.

Here, then, is at once new light; the vagus may not as a first effect slow but accelerate the heart-beat. One of the best marked results of vagus stimulation noted among a large number of cold-blooded animals now examined by myself and others is *after-acceleration* of the cardiac rhythm. So far as my own prolonged