

CANADA

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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Variations in the Great Arterial Blood Vessels.* By GEORGE DUNCAN GIBB, M.D., LL.D., Member of the Royal College of Physicians, London; Assistant Physician and Lecturer on Forensic Medicine, Westminster Hospital, London.

Variations in the origin and distribution of the great arterial blood vessels in the human frame are sufficiently infrequent to invite the consideration of the biologist, more especially when there is a striking and well-marked deviation from the standard normal type.

Although I have seen several instances of variation in the vessels arising from the aorta preserved in many of the museums, and indeed elsewhere, I am content on the present occasion to bring forward two striking examples in adult white individuals, which I had the opportunity of carefully investigating, and I am especially induced to do this, inasmuch as in one of them the peculiarity observed, so far as I am aware on careful investigation, is quite unique.

It must be remarked that deviations in the origin of the great vessels from the aorta are seldom—indeed it may be said never—recognised during life, that is to say when they occur congenitally. And as they are only discovered when life has ceased, they do not constitute a condition of morbidity any more than what is observed in the rare examples of transposition of the viscera. Whether they exert any disposition or liability to morbid action, I think is extremely improbable, as nature so beautifully regulates the compensating forces as to leave nothing to be desired in the completion and easy working of the great processes going on within the human machine, the circulation to wit, amongst others. As far as I know these peculiarities occur in persons, not subject to any external manifestation of abnormality, for in reality they constitute deviations from a normal standard, and are not deficiencies.

The subject has been ably considered by some of the greatest anatomo-