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THE VOICE IN DIAGNOSIS AND PROGNOSIS.

By T. WESLEY MILLS, M.D., L.R.C.P., ENG.

Assistant to the Professor of Physiology, McGill College; late Clinical
Assistant at the Throat and Chest Hospital, London, Eng.

[Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal.]

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—While in more recent times the ear of the practitioner of medicine has been called into exercise for the diagnosis of disease in auscultation and percussion in a way and to a degree wholly unknown to a former epoch, it is very much to be doubted whether any very great advances have been made by the use of the sense of hearing outside of the region indicated; as a matter of fact, are we not in considerable danger of overlooking many helps to diagnosis that our ancestors were obliged to rely upon on account of their very imperfections in physical examination? Perhaps every experienced practitioner is guided in forming his opinions unconsciously by the voice of the patient, just as every one cannot but form some conclusions, it may be very vaguely, regarding the moral and intellectual character of those he meets by the qualities of that which we commonly summarize by the term "voice." But there has been, even by writers, very little clear analytical study of this subject as it applies to disease in general. Such study is valuable, inasmuch as it serves to direct the attention of the student, the beginner in medicine, to another field of exploration in our very imperfectly developed science, for, unfortunately for