

venience has followed in my experience of between four and five hundred instances. It is otherwise if a portion of the muscular end of the uvula is taken away; for if a single arch now exists as a consequence from one pillar of the fauces to that of the opposite side, instead of the heretofore double arch, then is the singing voice altered, and in deglutition occasionally fluids, and even solids, get up into the posterior nares, thus proving the correctness of the views already enunciated, that one of the uses of the uvula is to hold the soft palate tense against the wall of the pharynx during the act of deglutition.

One of the effects of an elongated uvula, whether composed of membrane or muscle, is an unnatural drooping of the soft palate, which hangs upon the tongue, the power of the tensor and levator palati muscles being somewhat impaired. The constant dragging of the end of the uvula downwards in deglutition, which is continually occurring involuntarily, independently of the act of eating, is one at least of the causes of this; and that it is so is proved by the removal of the loose, flabby, membranous end, which is followed by the elevation again of the soft palate. The removal of the whole free muscular end of the uvula will not, in itself, give rise to a nasal twang in a speaking voice, however mischievous it may be to the singing voice. If a nasal twang is noticed coincidentally with such a removal, it will be found to depend upon some other cause altogether.

The speaking voice is modulated by the soft palate and uvula, and the motor power of the latter is unquestionably exerted in pronouncing the letters k, q, and x, with their associations, more especially the gutturals of various languages.

The *uses* of the uvula may be summed up as follows:—

1. It acts as a sentinel to the fauces in exciting the act of deglutition when anything has to be swallowed.

2. It compresses the soft palate, and holds its posterior free border firmly against the wall of the pharynx in deglutition, so that nothing can pass upwards.

3. It modifies speech in the production of loud declamation and the guttural forms of language, by lessening or diminishing the pharyngo-nasal passage, when it acts as an elevator.

4. Its elevating power is increased to the most extreme degree in the highest ranges of the singing voice, and is very moderately exerted in the lower ranges.

5. Therefore, in its uses, deglutition and vocalisation are the functions that are intimately associated with the uvula, and both become impaired more or less if it is destroyed, wholly removed, or seriously injured.—*Lancet*.

Bryanston Street, Portman Square, Jan. 1872.