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**TETANY FOLLOWING EXTIRPATION OF THE  
THYROID.\***

WITH REPORT OF A CASE.

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BEFORE the function of the parathyroid glands was known, Reverdin and Kocher noticed that symptoms of tetany followed the complete removal of the thyroid gland, but that if a part of the gland was left the patient as a rule escaped tetany and also cachexia strumapriva. Before these observations were published, Billroth had 10 cases of tetany out of 38 thyroidectomies, Reverdin 3 cases out of 17, and Mikulicz reported 3 cases of tetany out of 7 thyroidectomies. It was thought that tetany was due to thyroid removal, and the importance and function of the parathyroids was not established until considerably later and after much experimental work had been done on animals.

The parathyroids were discovered by Sandström, of Upsala, in 1880, and Gley in 1891-1897 proved for the first time by experiments on animals that post-operative tetany was due to the removal of the parathyroids and not to the thyroid. Soon after (in 1896) Vassale also connected tetany with removal of the parathyroids. Benjamins in 1892 first examined the

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