

The Canadian Journal of Medicine and Surgery

A JOURNAL PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN THE INTEREST OF
MEDICINE AND SURGERY

VOL. VII.

TORONTO, JUNE, 1900.

NO. 6.

Original Contributions.

THE RELATION OF DEFORMITY OF THE PELVIS TO LATERAL CURVATURE OF THE SPINE.*

BY H. P. H. GALLOWAY, M.D.,

Surgeon to the Toronto Orthopedic Hospital; Orthopedic Surgeon, Toronto Western Hospital;
Orthopedic Surgeon, Grace General Hospital; Member of the American
Orthopedic Association.

OF the various theories which have been advanced regarding the causation of lateral curvature of the spine, that which attributes to the superincumbent weight the chief etiological importance is the one most generally accepted, and rightly so. It is probable, however, that the superincumbent weight can produce lateral curvature and rotation only when the spine has already deviated from the vertical position so that the downward pressure bears obliquely upon some portion of the spinal column. This has been shown experimentally by Bradford & Lovett, and is in harmony with what one would expect from theoretical considerations. This primary want of erectness of the vertebral column may grow out of various conditions. Unbalanced muscular development, a slight paralysis of one lower extremity, a painful or weak foot, or a difference in the length of the legs may lead unconsciously to the assumption of a faulty attitude because of its being the position of greatest ease, or of least effort. Given a faulty attitude habitually assumed, especially in a growing child of weak muscular development and imperfectly ossified bones, and the conditions

* Read before the American Orthopedic Association at Washington, D.C., May 1st, 1900.