

LARYNX.

Gavello, G.—*The Paralysis of the Vocal Cords in Mitral Affections.* "Bolletino delle Malattie dell Orecchio," etc., Florence, November, 1905.

The author mentions the common causes of pressure in the laryngeal nerves from cardio-vascular disturbances. A new possible factor was indicated in 1897 by Ortner, who affirmed an etiological relation between paralysis of the left recurrent and mitral stenosis. He described two cases in which with mitral stenosis and marked dilatation of the left auricle there was complete paralysis of the left recurrent. The author mentions one case reported by each of the following authors—Kraus (Graz), 1900; Hoffbauer, 1902; Syllaba (Prague), 1903; Alexander, 1904; Sheldon, 1904. In all these the left recurrent paralysis resulted from stenosis of the mitral valve. He also gives details of a case of his own occurring in a woman aged nineteen. The author does not consider sufficient the view of Ortner, that the paralysis is due to direct pressure on the nerve by the dilated auricle, but inclines to the theory of Kraus and Hoffbauer, that it is due to a general descent of the heart and a dragging down of the aortic arch causing pressure on the recurrent and consequent degeneration.

James Donelan.

Gavello, G. (Turin).—*On the Laryngeal Disturbances in Syringomyelia.* "Archiv. Ital. di Otologia," etc., Turin, November, 1905.

A very careful and detailed account of the general and laryngeal features in the case of a woman aged thirty-one occurring in the clinic of Prof. Gradenigo. The right vocal cord was fixed in the cadaveric position, and the left in the median line in respiration, passing beyond it on phonation. The cases of several authors are referred to. There was no paralysis of the trapezius or of the sternomastoid, and these reacted normally to the galvanic current on both sides. The author points out that while from the researches of Grabower, Exner, and others, one is inclined to admit the absolute independence of the laryngeal motor innervation of the eleventh pair of nerves against the old theory of Claude Bernard, the latter tends to come into vogue again, being supported by the recent observations of van Gehuchten, who, by the study of the degenerations, has demonstrated the existence in the inferior laryngeal nerve of a number of fibres coming from the spinal accessory.

James Donelan.

Ferreri, G. (Rome).—*A Contribution to the Treatment of Laryngeal Tumours.* "Archiv. Ital. di Otologia," etc., Turin, November 5, 1905.

The author contributes a long and profusely illustrated paper on the removal of laryngeal growths by endolaryngeal means. The paper is too detailed to be treated adequately in an abstract.

James Donelan.

ŒSOPHAGUS.

Stewart, John (Halifax).—*Obstruction of the Œsophagus.* "Maritime Medical News," vol. xvii, September, 1905.

The writer defines obstruction of the œsophagus as any interference with its function, no matter what the degree or cause. Then follows a lucid anatomical and physiological description of the gullet, with its relations. The results of several biological experiments are also given. For instance, if the œsophagus be divided transversely, peristalsis of the lower end will result from stimulation of the mucous membrane of the pharynx, while stimulation of the lower segment of the tube will not be