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*As we approach the Millennium I thought it would be interesting to see what our forebears were writing about 100 years ago. The Journal of Laryngology, Rhinology and Otology was then published by Rebman Publishing Company, Limited, 11 Adam Street, Strand, London, W.C.—Editor*

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**THE CONNECTION OF THE FEMALE GENERATIVE ORGANS  
AND LARYNGEAL AFFECTIONS**

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The knowledge that some connection existed between the sexual apparatus and the vocal organs in males was known in remote antiquity among the Orientals, from the change observed in the character of the voice of the then familiar household servant, the eunuch. As the human mind progressed through various ages until the desire for music had become a prominent feature of Eastern life, attention was riveted on the harmonious voice of the young eunuch, and the practice of castration was made the means of livelihood in preparing boys for the church. Even until modern times the Italian castrated boy sopranos were of world-wide fame. F. V. Stein (1) has described a large and prosperous sect in Russia, known as Skopzi, and characterized by requiring castration of all its male members. After this sect had existed for some time as a secret society, attention was called to it by the change in the voice of its members.

In the lower animals the influence exerted by the sexual organs over the laryngeal mechanism is well shown by the stag roaring for its mate during the rutting period, but yet never producing laryngeal sounds at other times; this is also observed in birds making increased vocal efforts during the breeding season, and in the singing birds the rhythm and flow of song is more beautiful during their sexual periods than at any other time.

In a few observed cases of male singers of mature age where castration had been performed, or the generative organs were destroyed by disease, marked changes were noted, not only of the speaking, but especially of the singing voice. At the age of puberty the larynx grows rapidly, and the voice of a boy "breaks" in consequence of the lengthening of the cords, generally falling an entire octave in pitch; a similar change, but much less in amount, occurs at the same period in the female. In many individuals coughing can be excited by stimulation of distant sensory nerves, as from the uterus, mamma, and ovaries. (2) From these observations it can readily be seen that some connection, be it what it may, exists between the generative organs and the larynx, not only in the male, but also in the female sex.