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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

ON THE VASO-MOTOR INNERVATION OF THE LARYNX.

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WE know how easily the laryngeal mucous membrane reddens under the influence of various irritants. Congestion of the larynx may even go as far as the production of blood extravasations (hæmorrhagic laryngitis). The hyperæmic phenomena are probably due to vaso-motor troubles of reflex origin. At least, by analogy with what we know of the vaso-motor innervation of other organs, it is legitimate to attribute to vaso-dilator action the laryngeal congestions which appear in certain cases; for example, the hyperæmia which follows in the wake of prolonged vocal efforts (as is often the case with singers, orators, etc.), and which is evidently a functional hyperæmia, just as it is with that of the submaxillary gland at the moment of secretion. On the other hand, clinical observation teaches us that congestion of the larynx can have a very remote origin, namely, in the generative apparatus.

The connections of "sympathy" which bind the larynx to the genital organs are well known. Not only does laryngeal congestion show itself temporarily at the time the voice breaks, and, in certain women, during the menstrual period, sometimes also following sexual excitement, but it even appears as a chronic condition in consequence of certain diseases of the generative organs (various uterine affections, displacements, ulcerations of the cervix), and this proves that there undoubtedly exists, in the latter cases, a connection between the two classes of affections, since it is sufficient to treat the uterine trouble to get rid of the laryngeal congestion at the same time. No one can doubt that in these cases reflex circulatory troubles are at work, because physiology has shown that we can initiate, by the excitation of certain sensory nerves, reflex vaso-motor phenomena in places very remote from the point of irritation. The reflex origin of laryngeal hyperæmia in certain affections of the nasal mucosa is no longer doubted.