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A PHRENIC NERVE RECEIVING A ROOT OF ORIGIN FROM
THE DESCENDENS HYPOGLOSSI. By Professor Sir W.
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VARIATIONS in the roots of origin of the phrenic nerve have been recorded by Wrisberg,¹ Ludwig,² Cunningham³ and myself.⁴ Recently I met with a variety which, though Valentin in Sömmering's work *Hirn und Nervenlehre* states to be often present, has only once come under my observation.

On the left side of the neck of an adult male a branch of some size arose in the lower part of the neck from the descendens hypoglossi. It entered the thorax, passed in front of the vena innominata sinistra and the transverse part of the arch of the aorta, and joined the left phrenic nerve in front of the root of the left lung. This left phrenic received roots of origin from the anterior divisions of the fourth and fifth cervical, but not from the third. It is probable that in this neck the root of the phrenic from the third had accompanied the communicans hypoglossi arising from the third cervical, and through it had reached the descendens hypoglossi, with which it ran for about two inches before being given off to join the phrenic in the thorax, as above described.

¹ and ² Quoted by Krause and Telgmann in *Die Varietäten des Nerven*, Leipzig, 1868.

³ *Jour. of Anat. and Phys.*, vol. vii. p. 94.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. vi. p. 102.