HEAD AND NECK.

PHARYNX—No. 1.

POSTERIOR WALL OF THE PHARYNX AND ADJACENT STRUCTURES, VIEWED FROM BEHIND.

The muscular wall of the pharynx is composed of three constrictor muscles with the stylo-pharyngeus and palato-pharyngeus muscles on each side. The three constrictor muscles overlap one another from below upwards, and are inserted into a median raphe which extends from the basilar process of the occipital bone along the posterior wall of the pharynx. Between the upper margin of the superior constrictor and the basis cranii is a semilunar space, termed the sinus of Morgagni, in which the muscular wall of the pharynx is deficient, and in which the subjacent pharyngeal aponeurosis, or membranous wall of the pharynx, is specially strengthened.

Lateral relations. The relations and course of the different large cranial nerves which escape from the

skull close to the upper part of the pharyngeal wall should be carefully studied.

The vagus nerve escapes from the skull through the middle part of the jugular foramen.

The tenth, eleventh, and twelfth cranial nerves are seen emerging, lying close to one another, at the base of the skull. The ninth lies in front of them, and is not seen for that reason. The superior cervical ganglion of the sympathetic lies a little further in.

A large ganglion, the ganglion of the trunk, appears upon the vagus, and is closely united to the hypoglossal nerve, and from this ganglion the superior laryngeal nerve is seen passing downwards behind the

internal carotid artery.

3. Middle constrictor.

4. Inferior constrictor.

5. Upper end of œsophagus.

6. Greater cornu of hyoid.

It will be noticed that the large vessels and the nerves lie mainly somewhat posterior to the pharyngeal wall, and are not in direct contact with the lateral wall. This fact is of great importance in considering the lateral relations of the tonsil, since the internal carotid artery and the internal jugular vein must also lie on a plane which is considerably behind as well as external to the plane of the tonsil.

The figures indicate—

- 7. Sterno-mastoid muscle. 1. Sinus of Morgagni. 2. Superior constrictor.
 - 8. Posterior belly of digastric.
 - 9. Internal carotid artery.
 - 10. Superior ganglion of the 11. Vagus nerve.

- 12. Superior laryngeal nerve. (Pin.)
- 13. Spinal accessory nerve.
- 14. Hypoglossal nerve.
- 15. Spinal accessory nerve crossing behind the internal jugular vein.
- 16. Pharyngeal plexus.



