

*Reprinted from the New York Medical Journal
for June 5, 1886.*

CONCERNING THE POSITIONS OF
PARALYZED VOCAL BANDS.*

(FROM THE PHYSIOLOGICAL LABORATORY, HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL.)

BY FRANKLIN H. HOOPER, M. D.,

BOSTON.

It is the purpose of this paper to inquire into certain influences which may combine to determine the positions of paralyzed vocal bands, and to ask whether we are always justified in assuming that a given position of an immobile vocal band is indicative of the arrested function of this or that muscle of the intrinsic laryngeal group. In other words, are there not some anatomical factors besides the arrest of what we suppose to be the action of a laryngeal muscle, as well as certain physical causes, which may contribute toward producing the position in which a paralyzed vocal band may happen to be when we see it reflected in the laryngeal mirror? For instance, supposing we could take one hundred individuals of different age, size, and sex, and in each of them cut one or both of the recurrent laryngeal nerves, should we find the vocal bands in all of them occupying the same, or relatively the same, position? Undoubtedly we

* Read before the American Laryngological Association, May 27 1886.