



## Diversity of Lymphatic Ducts<sup>a</sup>

The diversity observed in dogs near the junction of the lymphatic ducts with the vena cava on the left side of the neck is found either in the branches of insertions, I, which are many here, few there, or in the small rings, K, which are completely absent in some dogs, are present in a certain number in most, are fewer in others still, sometimes narrow, sometimes fairly wide, as it appears in the figures.

Figure 1 is due to the diligence of my best friend Mr *Swammerdam*. I have prepared Figs. 2 and 3 which are a little different as far as the insertion is concerned. I found it superfluous to give particular explanations, since one same common explanation is enough.

*Of vena cava,*

- A. *Trunk above the heart*
- B. *Jugular branch*
- C. *Axillary branch*
- D. *Branch directed to the posterior aspect of the neck*
- E. *Branch directed to the inside of the neck*
- F. *Lymphatic ducts of the neck*
- G. *Lymphatic ducts of the left foreleg*
- H. *Common trunk of the lymphatic ducts below the neck, called thoracic*
- I. *Branches by which the lymphatic ducts continue into the vena cava*
- K. *Rings of lymphatic ducts through which most often either vessels or nerves pass*
- L. *Lymphatic ducts from the intestines and liver*
- M. *Lymphatic ducts from the loins and hind legs*
- 142 N. *Conglobate glands*

<sup>a</sup> OPH 12, vol. I, 139–142: The investigations on which “Lymphaticorum varietas” is based were most likely made by Steno in collaboration with *Swammerdam*, some time in 1662 and 1663; one of the drawings is likewise due to *Swammerdam*. Steno had planned an exhaustive work on the lymphatic system, but never realized his plan. The text was, at any rate as far as the latter part is concerned, no doubt composed long after the time when the investigations were made, probably

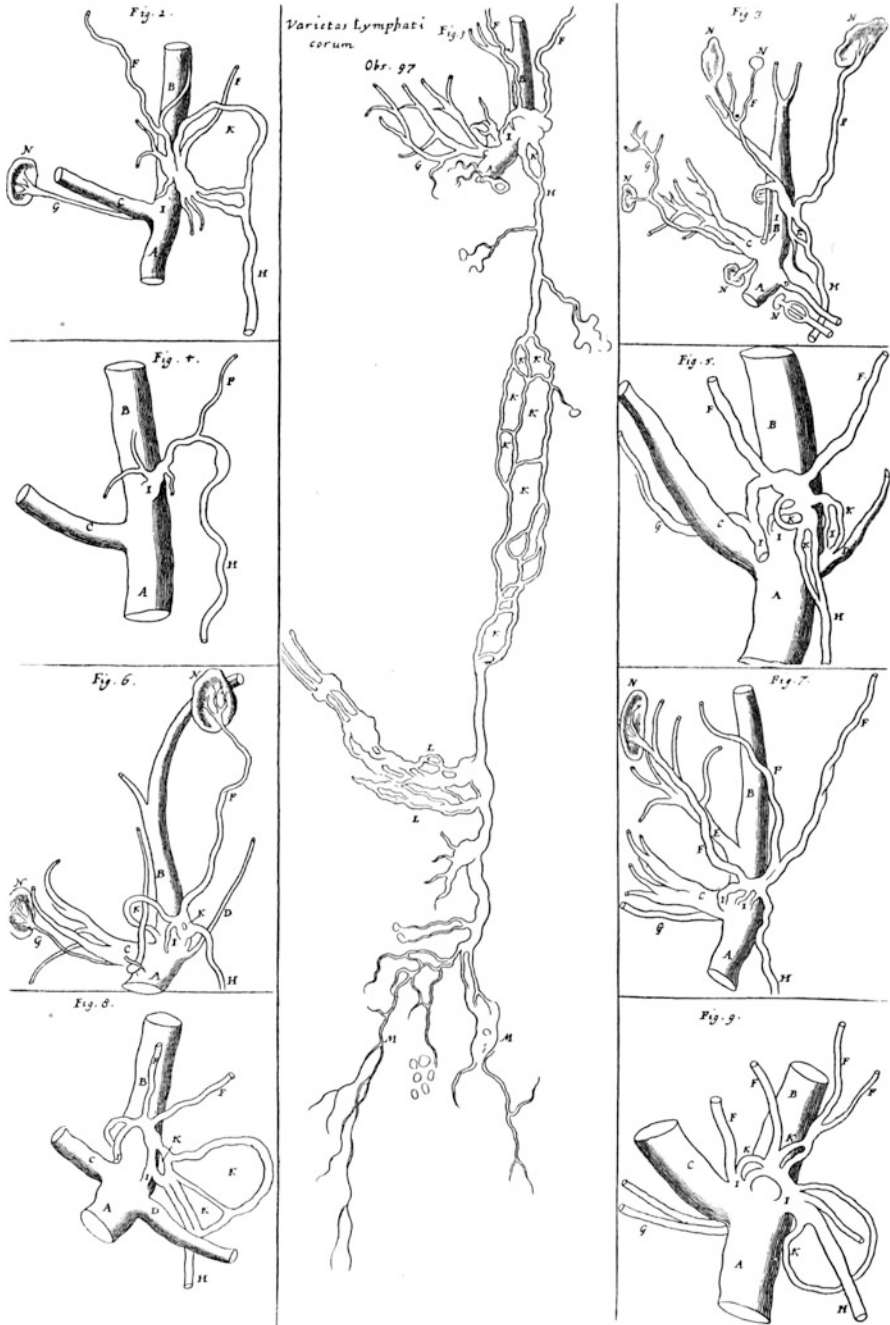


Fig. XII.1

Since vessels of the same kind admit such an important diversity in various individuals of the same species of animals, it easily appears that God, the creator of all things, among other matters to be acknowledged from the body of animals, wanted also to display to us these two attributes of divinity: he is neither carried away by chance since he does not move away from the regularity of a general conformation nor forced by any necessity since he arbitrarily changes particular conditions in individuals.

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during Steno's stay in Copenhagen in 1672–1674. The “Treatise” appeared in “Thomæ Bartholini Acta Medica et Philosophica Hafniensia. vol. II” *Hafniæ* 1675 as No. XCVII, pp. 240–241.