Cervicogenic headache: an early description

Despite the controversies surrounding the clinical sources and pathological basis for cervicogenic headache, this term was used by, and often is attributed to, Otto Spaaastad,1,2 although Barre and Riff had earlier described headache and vertigo, related to cervical arthritis, ascribed to stimulation of the vertebral nerve.3 However, an impressive, but little known description is found in the fourth of 18 lectures given between 1860 and 1862 on Rest and Pain, in John Hilton’s classical text:4

"Suppose a person to complain of pain upon the scalp, is it not very essential to know whether that pain is engendered by the fifth nerve or by the great or small occipital? Thus pain in the anterior and lateral part of the head, which are supplied by the fifth nerve, would suggest that the cause must be some..."
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