

processes of the cervical vertebrae by being interposed between it and the muscles. The inferior thyroid artery crosses behind the lower part of the vessel. *Medially*, it is in relation with the esophagus, trachea, and thyroid gland (which overlaps it), the inferior thyroid artery and recurrent nerve being interposed; higher up, with the larynx and pharynx. *Lateral* to the artery are the internal jugular vein and vagus nerve.

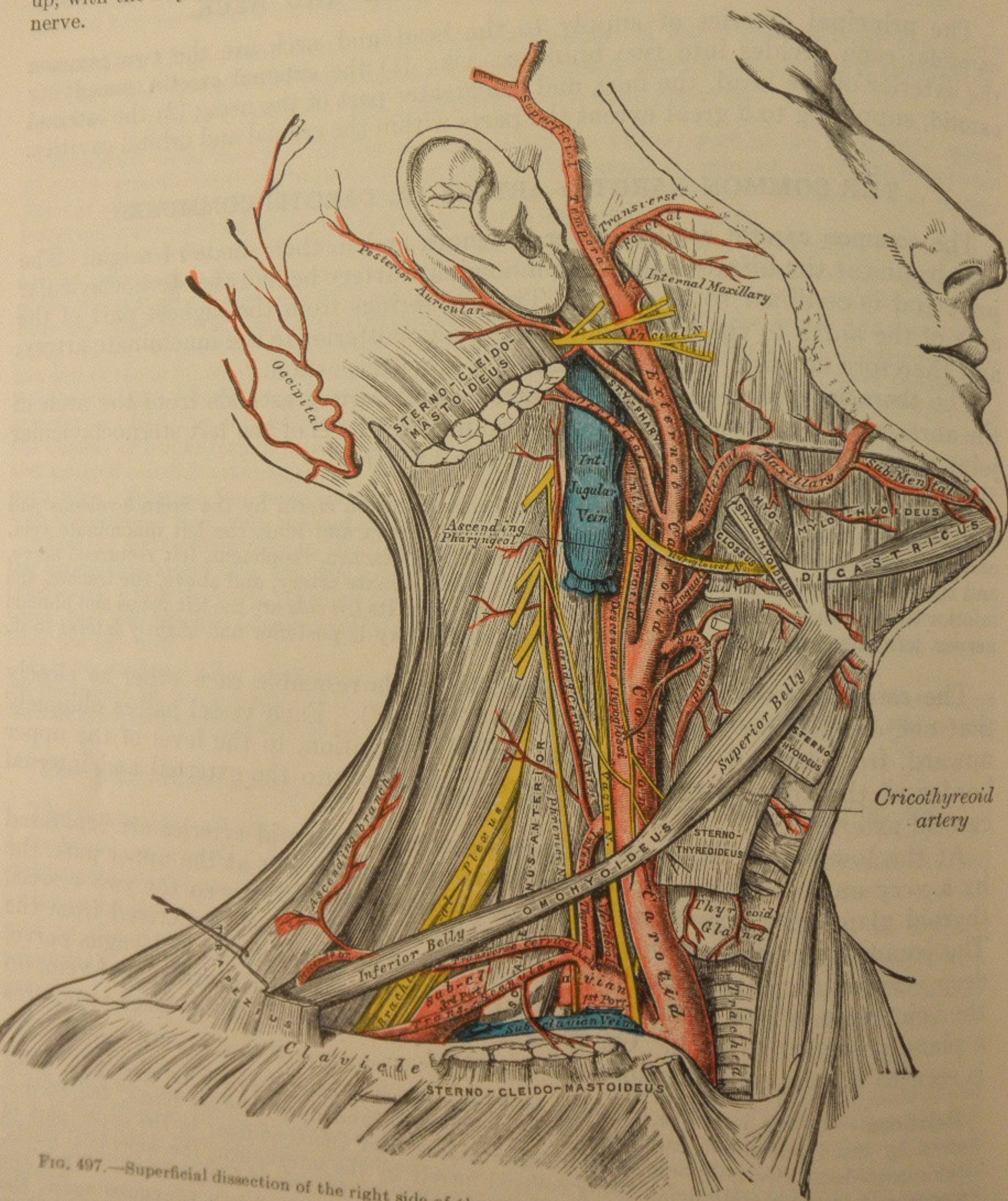


FIG. 497.—Superficial dissection of the right side of the neck, showing the carotid and subclavian arteries.

At the lower part of the neck, the right recurrent nerve crosses obliquely behind the right internal jugular vein, which diverges from the common carotid artery. The lower part of the artery is then seen.