

the muscles of respiration, with the mucous membrane of the air-passages, and with that of the stomach ; and the muscular coat of the whole alimentary canal, with its mucous coat. The appropriate incitements to action, in these various muscular apparatus, are propagated from their respective mucous membranes : purgatives incite the muscular coat of the intestines to motion, solely by the stimulation transmitted to it from the mucous coat ; accelerated peristaltic motion is necessarily preceded by increased nervous energy and vascular action of the mucous surface ; and a torpid condition of this surface is as necessarily connected with a sluggish state of the muscular coat. These considerations naturally lead us to infer, that the extraordinary activity of the muscular coat of the intestines, in Cholera, is connected with a very high degree of excitement in its consociated mucous membrane, and the increased quantity of matter, excreted from this membrane, is a direct proof of an inordinate determination of the circulating fluids to this tissue. An inordinate determination of the fluids to any organ is a proof of excitement in that organ, we have then the strongest proofs, short of ocular demonstrations, that the mucous membrane of the intestines, in Cholera, is in a highly excited state : but the extreme thirst ; the almost indomitable irritability of the stomach ; the distress produced by the application of heat ; the relief afforded by ice, and even by ice-cold water, when not taken so as to irritate the stomach by its bulk ; the good effects produced by sinapisms, cups, or leeches over the epigastric region, and many other well established facts, all prove incontestably, that the morbid action of the internal organs is one of high excitement.

Too little attention is in general paid to the sympathetic range of the digestive organs, and hence many of the phenomena of disease connected with those organs are very imperfectly understood. When we consider the complicate nature of the structures of this important apparatus, and the part which it performs in the animal economy, we cannot be surprised, that its diseased condition implicates all the other functions in the body,