

There are various reasons why we should hold the theory that the formative power exists in the digestive apparatus only. Each tissue and each part of the body differs from the rest. Symmetrical development, normal or abnormal, favour this same view. Were this otherwise, we should find one part taking from the blood the particles of living matter destined for its neighbour, with the result of building up a conglomerate structure, unlike what is seen in nature. Not only are both sides of the being pretty uniformly developed, but the symmetry of various diseases has been the subject of comment by many clinical writers. Recent research leads us to the conviction that matter (pabulum) receives its special properties or characters when it is converted into its living state ; also that "living or formative matter is alone concerned in the development and the production of those materials which ultimately take the form of tissues," &c. ; also that the blood is the channel of distributing this living matter, which has had its peculiarities and varieties of structure impressed upon it while being vitalised under the powerful control of the nervous system.

The next point to engage our attention is as to whether there is any reasonable proof or logical explanation as to how strong mental impressions can directly affect the nutrition and growth of various parts of the body, whether of the mother herself or of her child in utero.

The fact of mental concentration influencing physical development has been already alluded to, and requires but little attention. Exercise develops the parts exercised ; not only is there increased blood supply, but the blood becomes richer in the living matter required, which in its turn is called into existence by the nerve force which is exerting its constant control over the formation of the living matter. The concentration of nerve force upon any part is well known to be capable of exerting a disturbing power.

Imaginary diseases are capable of becoming real by prolonged concentration of the mind. Even wonderful changes of parts have been known to occur within short periods under such circumstances. All have, doubtless, heard of the case of the mother who saw her child's fingers crushed by a falling