

controlling influence over vascular action. The continuity of each nerve-fibre, whether tubular, cerebro-spinal, or gelatinous-ganglionic, may, with microscopic aid, be traced from origin to termination, even in its passage into and through another nerve, ganglion, or plexus, its characteristic individuality remains distinct, transference of innervation from one fibre to another is, therefore, a physiological impossibility. Consequently all attempts to explain certain phenomena by "transference" and "reflex action," involve glaring absurdities. The manifestation of pain in regions distant from the seat of lesion, has proceeded heretofore an insuperable *crux medicorum*. The law of antagonistic innervation alone furnishes the true key to unlock this secret, as it does that of every other vital phenomenon. The depressing influence at the seat of disease is communicated to a sensitive centre, which lowers the dynamic force of the dilating centre, thereby necessarily diminishing the *vis nervosa* of the dilating fibres proceeding from the centre, and consequently lessening the supply of blood to all tissues receiving innervation through the fibres involved. The impaired nutrition creates an impression of exhaustion, which, being communicated to the brain, is interpreted by the mind as *pain*—precisely as in prolonged fasting, a sensation of pain is referred to the stomach. In confirmation of the truth of this exposition, the more sensitive tissues involved become more or less atrophied, invariably. Of the two nervous systems, although "all are but parts of one stupendous whole," yet each centre is to a limited extent independent, and can exercise the function of generating impulses independent of the sensorium, and thus inducing involuntary action. Thus irritating sensations may be communicated to a contiguous motor centre, and induce spasm of all muscles to which the motor fibres are distributed, constituting what has been absurdly termed "reflex action." The existence of the law under consideration is convincingly exemplified in the manifest influence of both nervous systems over the digestive process. Emotional impulses exert either an exalting or depressing influence over the dynamic forces, according to their respective characters. Cheerful converse during and after meals, with its attendant exhilarating influences, exalts the dynamic force of the dilating centres, which augments the supply of