

ON THE INFLUENCE OF VARIATION OF ELECTRIC TENSION
AS A CAUSE OF DISEASE.

By W. Craig, Esq., Ayr.

[Mr. Craig thus recapitulates the heads of the arguments he has advanced in a very interesting paper upon this subject.]

1st. That heat and electricity are identical, as the one can be converted into the other.

2nd. That a large volume of electricity surrounds every primary constituent of matter, especially that form of matter which constitutes the gaseous bodies.

3rd. That animal heat is supported by the electricity liberated from the primary constituents of matter during the processes of respiration, digestion, and assimilation.

4th. That electricity is evolved during these processes on the same principle as that which is evolved during the action of a galvanic arrangement.

5th. That electricity and nervous power are analogous, if not identical; as the action of the one can be successfully substituted for the other.*

6th. That the majority of diseases are caused either by the sudden abstraction or slow abduction of electricity from the body.

7th. That a low state of electric tension on the surface of the earth, produced either by the operation of evaporation or some occult movement in the great internal currents of the earth, is the remote cause of epidemic and pestilential diseases.

8th. That occasional and ordinary diseases are produced by the sudden abstraction or slow abduction of the electricity from the body, or its undue elimination during the vital processes.

9th. That since electricity is so essential to the integrity of the vital operations, it is indispensable that measures be taken to promote its evolution and prevent over-radiation.

10th. That electricity is the source of vitality in vegetable life.

11th. That electricity is attracted by the fibres of the roots of the plants; and by the instrumentality of the electric fluid does the plant extract its constituents from the soil.

12th. That vegetables of rapid growth require a large supply of electricity to secure their perfection and completion; and the potatoe is a plant of this kind.

13th. That the disease in the potatoe was produced by want of nutrition.

14th. That the want of nutrition arose from defective electric agency.

15th. That the cause of the deficiency of this agency was those abstracting influences which produced low tension of electricity.—*Med. Gazette*, Oct. 10.

* This conclusion is, in our judgment, not justified by facts. Nervous power cannot be transmitted by anything but *nerve*. Electricity may be transmitted by a variety of conductors, organic or inorganic, and of these, nerve is one of the worst. Animals which evolve electricity are provided with distinct organs for this purpose. By nervous power, milk, urine, and bile are secreted from blood. Electricity, in any form, cannot produce these or similar results. They resemble each other in traversing their respective conductors with equal rapidity; but this is not sufficient to establish their identity.—*Ed. Gaz.*