

to crown, the two clearly, closely connected and related,—the organs of movement and sensation. If from a mechanical glance we pass to the contemplation of this same fabric moved and actuated incessantly by the powers of life—working by and through it, and showing how all its parts are ends and means—causes and effects—for the accomplishment of its purposes—all must acknowledge that herein is a subject with which none can be brought in comparison. The apparatus of the senses presiding over perception, the avenues to knowledge; the mutual inter-dependence of the various organs, so related by proximity and by function, that if one be ill the others feelingly are made to participate. The network of blood vessels penetrating everywhere, carrying in their tide the rich materials wherefrom the system is developed, nourished and maintained—a perpetual addition compensating for a perpetual abstraction of particles, so that an absolute equilibrium is secured. The individual is the same, but its parts come and go—are created and destroyed. While this matter is a portion of the body, it is subject to certain laws; but after it is let loose it may circulate about the universe in any other form. The poet's dream, then,—

“ There's not one atom of yon earth
But once was living man,”

is not an exaggeration but the expression of a philosophical fact. Concurrently with these chemical formations and evolutions, an amount of heat is uniformly generated throughout the body, and so regulated that whether in polar or tropical climate, temperature is at the same degree:—meantime those spongy tenements of the breath, the lungs, from the first wail to the expiring moan, incessantly pour into the air the vitiated, the poisonous, final product of oxidation, and restore by each inhalation an unadulterated equivalent of a gas instinct with vital properties, charged with superhuman powers; and thus it is that life in its varied relations is a permanent influence over a perpetually changing set of particles.

But all this is well known to you,—it is like a thrice told tale,—the faint echo of what has been forcibly proclaimed elsewhere. I am open to the criticism, and incur its consequences, because it is advisedly that I thus venture to recal in broad and comprehensive, but I fear feeble outline the fact that by an intimate acquaintance with the normal of healthy life you will best understand that life when its normal shall have been deranged, and best apply the means calculated to arrest, defer, or avert the threatened danger. It is moreover this assurance of your ability to meet and cope with that danger which removes anxiety from the minds of your teachers on your entering upon your independent manhood, uninfluenced and untrammelled by dogma, or special doc-