

which furnish the gastric glands with the elements from which the solvent is elaborated, and the whole membrane manifests an increased redness, and the gastric juice begins to flow. All the raptotic influence is either exaltant or depressant. The characteristic phenomena of each are fully described in the first article on the "Phenomena of life," and, therefore, need not be here repeated, but morbid action, being always depressant, and consequently inimical to life, requires further illustration. The first influence of morbid action falling on the sensitive dilators, the capillaries are necessarily contracted by the unbalanced force of the ganglionic centres, and as heat is principally generated in these vessels, a consequent diminution of temperature inevitably results, hence the universal sensation of coldness, less or more severe, which ushers in every disease. A convincing illustration of the operation of the law is furnished in the symptoms of concussion. The patient is pale, cold and shivering, and if the shock be severe enough to induce complete occlusion of the cerebral capillaries, the functions of the sensorium are suspended and consequent insensibility results. The *neurometer* here points with unerring precision to the comparative influence of the two antagonistic nervous centres, the vessels of the iris being contracted, are correspondingly elongated, thereby closing in and diminishing the size of the pupil. But when the depressing force of the shock reaches and sends down ganglionic innervation to a level with its antagonistic force, the brain being again supplied by blood, consciousness returns, but should the depressing influence continue ganglionic exhaustion, the appearance of the phenomena is diametrically changed, the surface becoming red, hot and perspiring, while insensibility gradually returns as the inspiring influence of the cerebral ganglia diminishes, the *neurometer* indicating in the expanded pupil the depressed state of the ganglionic force with the consequent preponderance of the dilating, when ganglionic innervation is completely exhausted, animation necessarily ceases.

The phenomena of fever also assume their appropriate place in the demonstration of this universal law. All morbid agencies capable of impressing the nervous centres with the essential characteristics of Fever act as direct depressants. This is manifestly true from the feeling of depression in the forming stage, and the prostration throughout the disease. It is wholly incon-