

that salt. Thus fire, applied to the living body, gives pain; and to gunpowder, it inflames. The fire may die away, but the pain, and the combinations into which gunpowder is changed, remain; and these effects continue, by virtue of causes in the organized living body, and in the elements of gunpowder.

The occasional efficient is required to give an action to a fit subject. The proximate efficient, are those on which that fitness depends, and are necessary to receive, and to keep or sustain the action so given. The former are as the agents by which natural processes are developed, and merely serve to bring into play, or to make manifest, or to give a new determination to, latent or concealed structures, qualities or motions. They are, to give a homely illustration, as the scaffolding to the erection of a house, or as the instruments of a workman to the work which he performs. And it is evident that, in the enquiry into the nature of structures, qualities or motions, occasional causes can only give us a clew, as it were, to an analysis of them; can only be as a help in practice—they cannot by themselves open out to us, those laws on which such structures, &c. depend, or by which they are regulated, and therefore cannot by themselves much contribute to real knowledge.

That both kinds of efficient are required in every change, further appears. 1. Because without some occasional efficient, the condition of a