

The following, then, is a brief presentation of the subject in a form largely free from technicalities.

This subject is of the utmost importance, and has not received the attention hitherto in works on physiology to which we believe it is entitled. We may first mention a number of facts on which to base conclusions:—

(1) Section of the nerves of bones is said to be followed by a diminution of their constituents, indicating an alteration in their metabolism.

(2) Section of the nerves supplying a cock's comb interferes with the growth of that appendage.

(3) Section of the spermatic nerve is followed by degeneration of the testicle.

(4) After injury to a nerve, or its centre in the brain or spinal cord, certain affections of the skin may appear in regions corresponding to the distribution of that nerve, thus, *herpes zoster* is an eruption that follows frequently the distribution of the intercostal nerve.

(5) When the motor cells of the anterior horn of the spinal cord, or certain cells in the pons, medulla, or crus cerebri, are disordered, there is a form of muscular atrophy which has been termed "active," inasmuch as the muscle does not waste merely, but the dwindling is accompanied by proliferation of the muscle nuclei.

(6) In *acute decubitus*, bed-sores form within a few hours or days of the appearance of the cerebral or spinal lesion, and this with every precaution to prevent pressure or the other conditions that favor the formation of such sores.

(7) After section of both vagi, death results after a period varying in time, as do also the symptoms, with the animal.

In some animals pneumonia seems to account for death, since it is found that if this disease be prevented, life may at all events be greatly prolonged.

The pneumonia has been attributed to paralysis of the muscles of the larynx, together with loss of sensibility of the larynx, trachea, bronchi, and the lungs, so that the glottis is not closed during deglutition, and the food finding its way into the lungs