

functions. The author claims no greater merit than having possessed discernment enough to discover and gather up materials ready formed by the great masters, and strewn broadcast over the pages of medical literature, which, like the blocks for Solomon's temple though hewn and polished in distant regions, when brought together, fit completely into a structure of beauty and symmetry.

Thus the experiments of Bernard, which have been fully confirmed by subsequent investigators, prove to an absolute certainty the existence of a law of antagonistic innervation presiding over capillary function. Extirpation of the superior cervical ganglion produces instantaneous congestion of the corresponding side of the face, with consequent augmentation of temperature, while destruction of the fifth nerve induces exsanguination and consequent diminution of temperature. Now, it is plain from these results that the sympathetic centres contract the capillaries, and that the sentient nerves must contain nerve fibres specially endowed with the power of dilating these vessels, and that the systems of centres normally form an equilibrium of action commensurate with the due performance of organic function. It is also proved by experiments more than sufficiently numerous, that the two systems possess very different degrees of susceptibility, while the cerebro-spinal system responds to the least possible impressing influence, the ganglionic only obeys an intensified action, but when once fully impressed, the action is far more forcible and prolonged. Necessarily then, an impulse is first felt by the more susceptible, which are the capillary dilators, and if an exaltant impression the vessels expand, but if a depressant, they contract, the ganglionic contracting force remaining unchanged till the impress becomes sufficiently intense to exalt or depress their dynamic power, when, their action being more persistent and energetic, overcomes that of their antagonists, and produces partial or complete occlusion of the capillaries, or sinks more rapidly from a depressant influence, leaving the antagonistic dilating innervation unbalanced, and consequently these vessels become everywhere expanded. These phenomena are manifested in all nutritive, therapeutic and morbid influences. The contact of food with sentient ramifications in the mucous membrane of the stomach produces an exaltant impression on the nervous centres presiding over the capillaries