

of care in the digestive process, cannot, and in fact does not, fail to bring about results of a most telling character in the very process of sanguification. The death process in life, is often slow, and yet, progressive in character. Intestinal villi, and the mucous membrane of this complicated alimentary canal, depend largely on the distribution of normal nerve force, in order to keep up normal activity. In this very canal, the death process frequently sets in, long prior to a recognition of the fact. One of the most interesting topics, recently brought to notice by at least four or five writers, two in Germany, one in France and one in America, is the idea, that the nerve cells, were capable of movement, to such an extent as to enable them, to alter the degree of their relationship to one another. The only physiological observation quoted in behalf of this theory, is that in 1890, by Wiedersheim, a German, who saw in "*Leptodora Hyalina*," an invertebrate, one of the *Entomostraca*, the nerve cells of the oesophageal ganglion move in a slow flowing fashion. Altered relationship of the neurons may be connected with a retarded distribution of nerve power, and thus become closely associated with the development of the hysterical paralytic condition, so transitory in character. The explanation given, is that the neurons of the arm centre of the cortex, retract their processes in such a way, that their end tufts, no longer bear the normal relation to the spinal neurons. We must acknowledge that a new sphere of observation, is opened up, by this attractive departure in neurological structure, having so wide a range, and yet so closely associated, with the normal distribution of nerve power. The process of renewal of old combinations of neurons, has been ingeniously worked out, and may lead to the discovery of new truths, of much practical value, as to the regulating power of nervous energy. "Experiments appear to afford adequate evidence that, in a normal state of the body, the integrity of the medullary vaso-motor centre, is essential to the production and distribution of those continued constrictor impulses, by which the general arterial tone of the body is maintained, and that an increase or decrease of vaso-constrictor action in particular arteries, or in arteries generally, is brought about by means of the *same medullary vasomotor centre*. But we must not conclude therefore, that this small portion of the medulla-oblongata is the only part of the central nervous system which can act, as a centre for vasomotor fibres. We are rather to suppose, that the spinal cord, along its whole length, contains, interlaced with the reflex and other mechanisms by which the skeleton muscles are governed, vaso-motor centres and mechanisms of varied complexity, the details of whose functions and topography, have yet largely to be worked out." (*Foster's Physiology*, 1893. p. 281 and 284.)