

throw the mantle of charity over their faults, if any they had, let us try and emulate the many good, noble and manly qualities which were common to all.

HEREDITARY PREDISPOSITION OF NERVOUS DISEASES.*

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As comparative anatomy has taught us much that is interesting and instructive on the subject of anatomy, so, likewise, I think many suggestive hints and illustrations may be gathered by the study, comparatively, of the various tissues of the body, tissues differing in their component elements, their structure, and their functions, yet, all at once, existing and impelled beneath the same natural forces that call forth, dominate, and destine all organic matter.

In approaching, therefore, the study of the nervous system, I do not wish to do so with the idea that it is that separate and distinct, special and peculiar structure, whereby an unknown medium manifests itself, but simply that it is tissue—organic tissue,—part and parcel of one harmonious organic being, subject to the same laws of existence, capable of the same stimulation and exhaustion, development and decay, as are its more subordinate associates. To me, therefore, as a physiologist, brain stands as but a tissue, and mind as the manifestation of its function—tissue most highly developed in its structure, and incomprehensible in that function.

But, looking on being in this comparative sense, we observe that in all its tissues capable of expressing function, the exhibition of such function becomes in each subservient to this one principle, viz., relationship with things external or internal. By being brought in relation with these circumstantial surroundings, impressions are received by the tissues, which, in turn, respond in their own peculiar fixed reaction. This is the power of stimulation, and may be summed up in two words—*Irritation* and

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