

its development at the time when its hinder lobes—the parts last produced, and peculiarly characteristic of the human brain—were only just beginning to be formed. Our explanation of this most interesting specimen must be, that, when the brain had attained that degree of development which, according to Professor Retzius, is proper to the human fœtus about the beginning of the fifth month, and corresponds with the completed development of the brain of lower mammalia, then its development ceased. But though in form it is like the fœtal brain in the fifth month, yet, in all its dimensions, it is larger; so that, although its development had ceased, its growth continued, and was not checked till the brain had attained the size of that of a mature fœtus. In this brain, therefore, we find at once defective development and defective growth; but in the other, the development proceeded, and the growth alone was checked." On the other hand, examples in which development was checked while growth continued, may be seen in malformed hearts, where only a single cavity exists, no partition having been developed; yet where growth proceeded in regular order.

At all periods of life decay in the body is going on. Every living body, everything indeed in all animated nature, has a limited period of life—has a period of growth, maturity, and decay; and so it is in the human body. Not only the body as a whole has its period of existence terminating in death, but every particle of tissue, every element which enters into the formation of the whole, has its own limit of life. It is begotten, it matures, it fades, it dies. This is independent of the life-course of the whole frame. And, from the earliest period of embryonic life until the heart finally ceases to beat, this process of limited life in the tissues is constantly being enacted. Paget gives two sources of decay in the tissue, or, as it is aptly expressed, of "wear and tear," one of which is exercise, and the other natural death, in accordance with a general law.

After growth and development are completed, assimilation—a process coeval with the life of the body—is the only remaining way by which the "formative process" is manifested. In passing, I may just state that these worn-out, or dead particles, are, when the body is in a state of health, duly removed from the system—excreted by some one or more of the excretory organs; or it may