

the same result as those which have been retained. Spasms may own many sources as the emotions, inflammation, hyperæmia, anæmia, dental, gastric, intestinal, and uterine irritation; and on the principle of removing the effect by taking away the cause, all that is necessary, is to single out the cause, and then apply with mathematical precision the "*contraria contrariis opponenda*" of Hippocrates, when there will be found an all sufficient antispasmodic in the calmative, antiphlogistic, debilitant, tonic, lancet, emetic, cathartic, and emmenagogue respectively. It is true these are but relative means, and of limited utility, but it is more rational thus to manage disease than, haphazard, treat it with absolute measures which often disappoint, and may be detrimental, for no medicine reckoned absolute, will invariably manifest its power. This is a view of the action of medicines not yet thoroughly unfolded, but we hope ere long to find it pourtrayed with ample justice.

Again, it is customary to indulge in exclusive ideas of the actions of medicines, and commemorate them in too defined statements, which are bad, by concealing, in an apparent conclusiveness, the warping of judgment, and narrowing of truth, inseparably belonging to them. Thus mercury cures inflammation and robs the blood of its richness while moreover, it has thrown some persons into a cachexia—a species of spæcemia—so that it is argued mercury is a deteriorator of the blood; but while this is true, it is also true that mercury, like a double-edged sword, cuts efficiently in opposite directions. Mark out, in proof, the victim of syphilitic cachexia, as if, in the last extremity of a consumption, before whose progressive hectic and emaciation he is rapidly declining, involved in a state of disease which pals the apprehension and confounds belief. His blood cannot well be of poorer quality, and yet in its deteriorator lies his only hope of recovery. Mercury alone will restore him to ruddy health, and do for him what lies in the power of neither tonic nor restorative. Can any one after this say it has a special, invariable, absolute effect, and not take into account the circumstances of varying cases. This is one example, but fallacies of a like kind apply to other remedial agents—*ex uno omnes disce*.

The phenomena of nature are diversified, and each one exhibits several phases; thus arsenious acid may occasion death by an acute shock to the nervous system, or by chronic disorder of this same part, or by gastro-enteritis, or by an inflammatory condition of the whole system, or by a combination of all these elements. The physiological effects of the same medicine are numerous, and trifold according as they depend upon its local, common remote, and specific remote actions. But we will not protract the discussion further. These remarks have been made, not in condemnation of the work before us, but in apology for its subject, we only meant to show the reed on which the author leant, and must say