

function, seems to be illogical and unwise, with the knowledge we at present possess.

Whether, in the course of evolution, certain nerves, or, as seems more likely, certain nerve fibres in the body of nerve trunks have become the medium of impulses that are restricted to regulating certain phases of metabolism, as, *e. g.*, expulsion of formed products in gland cells, is not, from a general point of view, improbable, and is a fitting subject for further investigation. But it will be seen that we should regard all nerves as "trophic," in the wider sense. What is most needed, apparently, is a more just estimation of the relative parts played by blood and blood-pressure, and the direct influence of the nervous system on the life-work of the cell.

These views are greatly strengthened by the facts well known to every observer of disease in the human subject. The preponderating development of the cerebrum in man must be taken into account in the working of every organ. To have a normal stomach, liver, kidneys, etc., is not enough; for real health, all the parts of that great complex of organs we call the brain must not only work, but work in concert. We must regard the nervous centres as the source of ceaseless impulses that operate upon all parts originating and controlling the entire metabolism, of which what we term functions are but certain phases, parts of a whole, but essential for the health or normal condition of the tissues.

Against such a view we know no facts, either of the healthy or disordered organism.

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