

anatomy, though not capable of producing such a revolution as they have done in chemistry, yet they must furnish important results, especially when the observations are numerous, and made at periods of every ten years of the life of individuals of both sexes, as proposed by Quetelet, to whom I am myself particularly indebted for being induced to make such researches.

In order, however, to become familiar with the alterations in size and weight produced in organs by disease, it is necessary to be acquainted with their normal condition in these respects. Nevertheless, to succeed in this is difficult, for I deem it essential that all the important organs in an individual should be healthy, and not merely the one examined; for the reciprocal influence of organs during life is too great to lead to correct results without their general condition being taken into consideration. It is from neglect of this view that the best manuals on anatomy vary so much in their statements of the relative weights of many organs. Thus we find, in the excellent treatise, by Huschke, on the abdominal viscera, the assertion that the liver usually weighs four pounds, and not unfrequently more, and even up to six pounds. These numbers are much too high for the normal condition of that organ.

The only opportunities afforded us to become acquainted with the healthy condition of the organs are in cases of accidental death, suicide, and executed criminals; but even among these we find only a small number to answer the purpose, and therefore, knowledge of this character is to be obtained only after a long series of observations. The first table below will form a commencement towards such a series, and in the appended notes I have described the external appearances of the organs, for I am convinced that but few physicians, or even anatomists, are familiar with many of them in their healthy condition—as, for instance, the liver, the intestinal canal during chylification, &c.; and I find it quite common for normal appearances to be mistaken for morbid ones.