

other structures of the spinal cord, but it alone furnishes the conditions for the manifestation of the various faculties.

The rest of the bodily organism is subordinate. The ganglial system carries on the functions that are essentially vital, and is accordingly the seat of the affections and emotions. All structures—brain, eyes, neck, heart, liver, mesentery and abdominal organs—have chains of ganglia and networks of nerves to keep them in normal life; and every blood-vessel is lined with a membrane of nerve material. An effect of this is that every emotion at once produces its influence at the central organ, and accelerates or retards the circulation of the blood. We know the deathly feeling of fear; the stimulus of joy; and the blood-disorganizing results of excessive anger. Disease is the result of morbid emotional conditions; and such distinctive ailments as cancer, consumption, and chronic gangliasthenia, or “nervous prostration,” have their inception often in the blighting of a fond hope, some mental shock, or the wearing occasioned by an aimless life. Sometimes death occurs instantly upon sudden excitement, or from distressing news.

The converse is equally true. The function of these nerves is to minister vital energy, to procure the supply of deficient force, to remedy what is lacking whether from wear or disease—in short, to keep the life intact. Much of this is done subconsciously. The body is repaired and made whole by the agency of sleep, or, perhaps more correctly, during sleep.

We aid or deteriorate one another by our normal or abnormal mental conditions. Hypnotism demonstrates this forcibly. Thus “virtue,” or dynamic force, is described as passing from Jesus when the woman with a hemorrhage touched his garment; and her faith saved her, or made her “whole.” If we are cheerful, kindly disposed, and full of charity, we infect others. Health is far more contagious than disease.

It is undoubtedly true that psychergy exists and operates in the various nerve-structures. All the solid parts of the body—bone, muscle, cartilage—end with the nervous system. This, at the same time, is so generally distributed that if we could