

one of these fail the superstructure falls. This, no doubt, is true, it contains a self-evident fact, but the mode in which the statement is generally regarded carries with it an error which we should endeavour to eradicate. It seems to imply that the body may be otherwise sound and yet one organ be at fault; this is a most unlikely occurrence, and as a matter of fact only exceptionally true. In most instances when we speak of disease of an organ we imply either that that organ is the one selected on which the morbid change going on through the body is more particularly concentrated, or merely that the disturbance therein is more evident to us; so we say that through that particular organ the animal machinery is arrested. For example there are the so-called fatty degenerations where the whole body undergoes decay by a partial change into adipose matter, but since life depends upon the integrity of the muscle of the heart rather than upon the muscles of other parts of the body, the patient in such a case is said to die of disease of the heart. There are many other similar morbid states which effect the whole body, some of which we name fibroid, others lardaceous, and so on; and it is often, as far as we can tell, a mere accident whether the liver, kidney, or other organ should be the chief sufferer and so conduce to the more striking symptoms. In that very common form of malady known as Bright's disease, the popular view is that it is an affection of the kidneys only, but medical men know that disease of the blood-vessels is one of its constant concomitants owing to the want of purification of the blood, consequently the symptoms attending it have often no relation to the kidney at all but simply to the decay of these vessels. A rupture of a blood-vessel in the brain, styled apoplexy, with its resulting paralysis, is a most frequent termination of Bright's disease; there is also a form of sudden blindness due to the rupture of a small vessel in the retina, which is also a very frequent symptom of this *Morbus Brightii*. You will see, therefore, that apoplexy, or the pouring out of blood on the brain from the rupture of a blood-vessel, is, in reality, much more a kidney disease than a brain disease; in fact apoplexy and the paralysis which follows are not diseases of the brain at all; the organ being perfectly healthy before it was oppressed by the blood. I know they are to be found in the Registrar-General's list amongst nervous diseases, but they really belong to the vascular system and are secondary in many instances to disease of the kidneys. You will clearly see that a man may be said to die of disease of the brain when this organ up to the time when it became injured was perfectly healthy. There is no more brain disease in a person dying of apoplexy