

# THE MEDICAL CHRONICLE.

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## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ART. XIV.—*A Lecture on the Diastaltic Spinal System.* By MARSHALL HALL, M.D., F.R.S.L. and E., Foreign Associate of the “*Académie de Médecine*” of Paris; &c. &c.

*To the Editors of the Medical Chronicle.*

GENTLEMEN,—The following lecture, with variations suggested by each occasion, was given to my medical brethren at Quebec, Montreal, and Toronto, in July and August, 1853. It presents an outline of investigations to which I have devoted a quarter of a century, and I trust it will not fail, in its printed form, to interest the student of medicine, the physiologist, and the practitioner.

One idea frequently recurs to my mind. It is, that our profession will take the rank to which it is entitled, when that is achieved for it which was achieved for astronomy and chemistry, when they were rescued from the superstitions of astrology and alchemy; that is, when it is raised from its manifold empiricisms—its Mesmerisms and its Hahnemannisms—to its true dignity of a noble and elevated science,—when physiology is our guide in the medical ward and in the sick room.—I am, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,

MARSHALL HALL.

### LECTURE.

Gentlemen,—My first object on the present occasion is to show you the few and simple experiments on which the establishment of the Diastaltic Spinal System is founded. My second will be to demonstrate the application of the principle of this system to the study of physiology, and of the pathology of convulsive diseases, and especially of epilepsy.

The whole class of the acts of ingestion and of egestion in physiology, and the science of Obstetrics as related to one branch of these; and the whole class of convulsive diseases in pathology, are part and parcel of this spinal system. The principle of the spinal system is as Ariadne's web in regard to these departments of medical science.