

THE
CANADA LANCET,
A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SCIENCE.

Vol. III.

APRIL, 1871.

No. 8.

Original Communications.

PHENOMENA OF LIFE MAINTAINED AND CONTROLLED
BY TWO ANTAGONISTIC PRINCIPLES OF
INNERVATION.

"Curatio contrariorum per contraria."

BY J. O. FREEL, M D, MARKHAM, ONTARIO.

On the extirpation of the superior cervical ganglion, the capillaries of all parts thus deprived of sympathetic innervation instantly become congested, with consequent augmentation of temperature. On the contrary, destruction of the fifth nerve induces instantaneous capillary exsanguination of all parts thus deprived of trigeminal influence.

Now, by logical induction, it must be inferred, as a natural sequence, that the same antagonistic principles extend to the whole of the two nervous systems. "What is true of a part, is true of the whole." It is evident, too, from the resulting phenomena, that the two systems normally maintain an equilibrium of action commensurate with the due performance of organic function that the neurilemma of the sensory nerves must contain centrifugal nerve-fibres, endowed with the special function of dilating the capillaries, and that the sympathetic ganglia must send out nerve-fibres, whose special function is to contract these vessels. Without such antagonistic action, no such phenomena could possibly be produced.