

the capillaries are relaxed in any particular part, a determination of blood is, in obedience to a hydrodynamic law, an inevitable result. The vessels having lost their tonicity by greatly diminished, if not suspended ganglionic innervation, become gorged with blood, and the parts present the characteristic phenomena of inflammation, "pain, redness, heat, tension and swelling." The vessels becoming attenuated from excessive expansion, soon allow exudation, with ultimate disorganization. The doctrine that inflammation arises from the "irritation of a stimulus" has led to an error in practice fatal to millions. The very term "irritation" creates an instantaneous sensation of depression. The phenomena produced by the application of an irritant prove incontestably the depressant nature of the impression. When applied to the web of a frog's foot, or the transparent mesentery, and viewed with a microscope, the vessels are seen to contract and the surface become pale, but as soon as the impulse depresses the ganglionic force below its antagonist, the vessels expand and an active state of congestion ensues.

Now it is evident if this be the law, and successful refutation is challenged, that the only therapeutic agent capable of contracting congestion is an exaltant. Nothing herein asserted is required to be taken as proved until it is confirmed by actual application. We have settled the question of treatment to our own satisfaction, and only ask others to fairly do the same for themselves. In our own practice, as well as in that of our former associate, the late Dr. Lloyd, every case of pneumonia or pleurisy when seen and treated in its incipient stage, has been subdued within forty-eight hours by the administration of a powerful exaltant; while in that of a neighbouring practitioner, a regular Rip Van Winkle, who has been asleep for the last half century, and now still swears by the lancet as the *sine qua non* of successful treatment, patients bled *ad deliquium*, lie in *articulo mortis* for several weeks, and too often succumb to the concentric depression of art and nature. A satellite of this great orb of past ages bled a man who had sunken into insensibility in a church, till the patient actually expired under the operation. Some practitioners adhere with such tenacity to old prejudices that they absolutely refuse to investigate any new principle. It is said "comparisons are odious," but they are nevertheless valuable as evidences of success. In a case which was taken as a test, a