atony are equally appealed to, and in spite of antithetical capacities each is chosen as the grand interpreter of the question. Speculators must differ, begin by shades and end in extremes of hypotheses. Whether the consideration be restricted to the nervous, or the arterial, or the muscular system, the same wide deviation appears.

In the example before us, the brain has been perhaps more often selected as the locale of the disorder than any other organ. Dr. Todd of London considers that during the paroxysm it is either in whole or in parts "in a highly polarized state," and when this reaches a certain extremity, or fulness of tension, the nervous power is discharged in such a way as to give rise to the phenomena of the fit. This, to our mind, is clearly inculcating *power*, the accumulation of which provokes the seizure, and the exhaustion of which naturally ends it. Our author, however, takes an entirely opposite view of the case; to his eye all is *debility*. He thus expresses it in the following passages, which we have selected:—

"Interrogating the nervous system from a mental point of view, the facts will scarcely warrant the idea that epilepsy is connected with anything like over-action of the nervous system. On the contrary, everything seems to point to a state which is the very opposite of this." "The action of the brain and of the nervous system generally, is reduced almost to zero at the time when convulsion is brought about."

Relative to the condition of the arterial circulation, there is, as we have said, the same antagonism of expression between power and debility in the *modus operandi* of the epileptic agency. The encephalic vessels have been commonly found post-mortem engorged, and this state of repletion readily suggests the prepossession of additional force as the active cause in determining upwards the over-accumulation. We believe that Parry taught that all the phenomena were consequent upon arterial determination to the cerebral masses, and that the impulse of the momentum, morbidly augmented by the active influences of such vascular distention, was, bona fide, the proximate source of the paroxysm; and more recent inquirers have adopted a somewhat analogous theory, distinguished at furthest by a slight modification or increased refinement. Our author, however, is not of this party. In broad contradiction to their persuasion, he boldly says:—

"It would seem, then, that the phenomena connected with the vascular sytem, are altogether opposed to the idea of arterial excitement in epilepsy. It would seem, indeed, as if the spasms, as well as the loss of consciousness and sensibility, were connected with a deficiency of arterial blood; for, in the first place there is a state closely approaching to syncope, and in the next place a state of positive suffocation, or arrested arterialization of the blood."

Necessarily, this is a fact which cannot be established by direct evi-