

tutional effect will, I dare say, be convinced, on finding the failing circulation of collapsed patients becoming active and strong, while heat and life are diffused into every limb and organ, some of which may have previously been in a semi-moribund condition. So remarkable was the effect in some of my cases, that it looked more like magic than medicine.

Little St. James Street, August 21, 1854.

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ART. XIV.—*Nature of the Morbid Poisons and of the Diseases to which they give rise.* Being an Inaugural Dissertation presented, March 1854, to the Med. Fac. McGill College. By ROBERT CRAIK.

It is not my intention in the following pages to attempt an elaborate description or explanation of all the phenomena connected with the diseases produced by the morbid poisons. The subject is too extensive to be included within the narrow limits of an inaugural dissertation, and too abstruse and intricate to be undertaken by any but those whose minds have been trained by long habits of research and discrimination.

But there are certain prominent points that stand out as landmarks, challenging the attention of every observer, and which have been subjects for investigation to men of science, ever since Medicine deserved the name of a science.

Some of the most remarkable of these features, for instance, are the contagious nature of the diseases to which the morbid poisons give rise; the great disproportion between the cause and the effect; the immense multiplication or reproduction of the poison within the system; the regular sequence which the symptoms generally preserve; the immunity from a subsequent recurrence which many of them have the power of conferring; together with other peculiarities less prominent, but scarcely less characteristic. It is the consideration of some of these prominent features, including the nature of the morbid poisons themselves, that I propose as the subject of the following essay. I do not intend to take them up seriatim, in the order in which I have just enumerated them, but as they suggest themselves in their appropriate places as I proceed. In the examination of the subject, cursory as it must necessarily be, I shall pass lightly over those parts which may fairly be considered as settled, and enter more fully into those which still remain in obscurity, alluding briefly to the various theories which have been advanced by different authors, stating the objections to them, and in some cases venturing to suggest others which may seem more strongly supported by