

tion may give rise to disturbance of the assimilative organs.

The last point to be noticed is the use of strychnia in the disease under discussion, it will be seen from the histories, that the irregular action of the heart continued after the otherwise apparent restoration to health, showing that the nervous affection remained notwithstanding the removal of what appeared to be its original cause, and those symptoms, were only removed, after the continued use of strychnia in small doses.

We may account for the action of this substance in the following way, prefacing our remarks by noticing some later physiological opinions regarding the nervous supply to the heart and its uses.

"It has been conjectured, that the heart in common with other organs has two sets of nerves, one to excite it to action, the other to control or arrest it.

It is supplied from the sympathetic system, which receives fibres from the special system, and it is likewise supplied by the pneumogastric nerve; if the sympathetic be galvanized the heart's action is greatly accelerated, if in like manner the pneumogastric its action is retarded.

The sympathetic therefore is supposed to stimulate the heart to increased action while on the other hand, the pneumogastric regulates this action." Now if we have disease interfering with the function of either set of nerves we will have disturbance of the rhythm of this organ "if for instance we destroy the sympathetic, the heart's action would be gradually retarded until it ceased to beat, on the other hand section of the pneumogastric would be followed by violent action of this organ, but without any regularity so that in a short time it would exhaust itself." Since we find in functional heart disease, that excessive palpitation is the most noticeable symptom we may conclude from the above theory, that the disturbance is owing to interference in some way with the functions of the pneumogastric, which interference gives its antagonistic nerve greater influence upon the organ, or by taking another view we may suppose it to be owing to an exalted sensibility of the sympathetic. Whichever view is taken, we can scarcely doubt that the action of the strychnia is due to its influence upon the spinal cord and medulla, and through these affecting the heart by the medium of its nervous supply.

It has been proved to us by experiments upon animals, that after death from strychnia the heart has lost its irritability, and it is supposed that its tonic effects upon this organ, is to retard and at last stop its action, it is like-

wise known that one of the poisonous effects of this substance is the gradual arrest of the circulation, and a tendency to stasis of blood in various parts of the body, this would go far to prove, that the milder physiological action of the remedy would be, that of a calmative, or, "as we say of digitalis," a tonic of the heart, this action may be owing to its effect upon the pneumogastric nerve, which by proving it as it were the balance of power, may enable it to neutralize the influence of the sympathetic, this I think would explain the opinions of some therapists who hold that strychnia is a sedative of the medulla oblongata.

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ANATOMY IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

The recent action of our Local Legislature on the Bill introduced relating to the study of practical anatomy will excite some surprise in the minds of intelligent men. The large amount of opposition to the passage of the bill was unexpected. We are well aware that a great deal of prejudice exists against dissection, in the minds of many persons. In consequence, it was believed that the introduction of the bill here would give rise to considerable discussion and that it would meet with some opposition. But we were unprepared for the manifest injustice of refusing to allow the bill to go to committee, which would not have pledged the House to its passage but would have been merely an act of justice to the respectable body who asked for the law. The debate certainly showed, to say the least, a very small amount of knowledge of the question at issue; and, had the bill been sent to committee, persons would have been heard who could have easily pointed out why it was necessary, in fact, that it was absolutely indispensable to the existence of good surgeons among us. If the bill had gone to committee we have no doubt it would afterwards have passed the House, and the Local Parliament of Nova Scotia might not have presented us with a debate characterized by the grossest ignorance and an utter disregard of reason or com-