

conceivable how men of great intellect could ever have entertained an opinion that vital action is preternaturally exalted in any disease, and, therefore, required to be depressed. The influence of exalts is indispenably necessary to the maintenance of animal existence. In fact, the human system is a miniature distillery, converting the amylaceous principles into carbon, hydrogen and oxygen in the exact proportion required for the production of alcohol, which is to be used up in the generation of heat. Hence, the universal appetite among all races of men for stimulants, while depressant influence, being inimical to life, is intuitively dreaded and, if possible, avoided.

The reception of morbid agents into the system at first reduces dilating nervous force, and, as in shock, induces the inevitable chill, the cold stage lasting till the zymotic principle sends down contracting innervation to a level with the dilating, when the system gradually regains its accustomed warmth, but ganglionic force, descending below that of its antagonist, leaves dilating innervation unbalanced, the capillaries are dilated and the surface everywhere assumes a hyperæmic appearance. Circulation and respiration being increased by the preternatural supply of blood to the organs presiding over these functions, a greater quantity of blood, in a given time must pass through the lungs, and more oxygen absorbed than normally, and as the amount of heat evolved is always in proportion to the quantity of oxygen consumed, an elevation of temperature is an inevitable result. In intermittents, decidedly the mildest type of fever, the hot stage is succeeded by the sweating, in which the miasm is eliminated, when a fresh accession of miasm is necessary for the full development of another paroxysm, and the length of time required to depress dilating innervation sufficiently to induce another chill marks the intensity of morbid action, quodians being always more severe than tertians or quartans. It is but reasonable to suppose, all things being equal, that an intermission equal to the first will be required for the development of each succeeding paroxysm.

The very intimate relation existing between inflammation and fever has induced many eminent observers to consider them identical. The only physiological difference consists in the former arising from depression of certain nervous centres alone, while in the latter the depressive influence is general. When