

to decay, yet, from a thousand different causes, both chemical and mechanical, are they subject to pathological defect, and although abnormal disintegration in the higher nerve centres causes mania and imbecility or dementia, yet their destruction does not necessarily terminate in death, whereas abnormal disintegration or dissolution in lower nerve centres does terminate in death. Now normal evolution and dissolution is the natural law of our existence, and our organisms—that is, of our higher intellectual centres—discharge their forces in virtue of the law of disintegration and reintegration, so that by the latter law these organs recuperate all they lose by emitting force. But should, from pathological cause, reintegration become arrested, the result will be mania in some stage from loss of equilibrium in the mental forces, loss of intellectual forces. Now so many of our vital organs are dependent for their motive forces upon the lower nerve centres that abnormal disintegration in them generally terminates in death, so that while abnormal disintegration in the higher centres leads to a loss of equilibrium in mental forces and consequent insanity. Abnormal disintegration of lower centres leads to death, if so be that it supplies force to a vital organ (lungs or heart for example), and paralysis, if to a muscle or tissue. All these facts you will learn by the clinical course of lectures you are about to enter upon. Keep always, gentlemen, before your eyes that in dealing with physical science there may be, and certainly is, great ignorance as yet, but there is no mystery. We have nothing to treat with, or of, but matter and its functions. Let us be only sure that structure is normal, then we will know that function is normal, and the consequence will be that conduct will be normal also.

When we consider the nervous system with regard to mind, as one of its functions, or forces, or phenomenon, we must remember that it is as much a circulating system as is the vascular system. The latter mechanism circulates the blood into every part of the animal economy by means of that great pump, the heart. So does the nerves circulate vital or molecular force into every part of the animal economy by that great ganglion, the brain, and all the lesser ganglia. The whole ganglionic