

tion having existed. Besides, the cramps and spasms in most cases are a symptom so easily controlled, that they cannot be considered a very important feature of the pathological state. A tourniquet, a tight ligature, cups to the spine, or even to the abdomen, frictions, are often sufficient permanently to dissipate and almost always to relieve them. The suffering of the patient is then abated, but no material improvement is effected in his condition. The neuralgic pains often yield to frictions or cups on the spine, or to a few drops of laudanum, without, however, the patient being placed in a less hazardous position.

From the symptoms it is evident there is disorder of the nervous functions of sensibility and muscular motility. But we find these functions to manifest disorder under two opposite conditions—an inflammatory excitement of the nervous organs; and the reverse—or a state of exhaustion, especially induced by excessive losses of blood, or by copious evacuations. From either of these causes will proceed neuralgic pains, spasms, and even convulsions. The cerebral organs remain unaffected, or at least exhibit no disorder or commotion. They are enfeebled, and every exertion of the mind is an effort frequently painful to the patient. There is want of energy in the actions of this structure.

The glandular apparatus appears to suffer from deficiency in its circulating fluid, and a want of excitement. In this respect it is in unison with the skin.

The condition of the heart, the impelling force of the general circulation, is that of gradually increasing debilitation. The general circulation, or the system of supply to the capillary or organic circulation, is becoming exhausted, being deprived of a large amount of the quantity of blood it contains and circulates. From these states the pulse loses in its force and fulness, while it possesses augmented frequency; and the blood is not propelled in sufficient quantity into the organs unaffected by the diseased condition to sustain and develop their forces of life.

The capillary circulation, in which in health, antagonizing forces preserve an equilibrium, exhibits the commencement of the complete overthrow it subsequently manifests. The extremities, especially the lower extremities, lose their natural temperature; beneath the nails, the colour is seen purple, livid or blue. This change in the coloration extends gradually along the limbs, and is seen to circle the mouth and the eyes. Now commences the shrivelling of the fingers, hands, toes, and feet. The skin loses its elasticity, and remains in whatever position it may be drawn. These changes are the evidence of three positive conditions: 1st, the moveable element of the organism, the sanguineous fluid, exists in the exterior surface, in much less proportion than is natural; it has abandoned the periphery of the body: 2nd, the red globules remain stagnant in large quantity in the tissues, their movements have ceased, and hence they acquire, as they always do when quiescent and not exposed to the action of the atmospheric air or oxygen, the dark hue of venous blood: 3d, the watery, serous, saline, and albuminous elements of the blood have escaped from the