

ulation, on the principle, universally admitted, that the expenditure of arterial blood is in proportion to the vital force employed.

Buffon tried to make a dog amphibious, by immersing the puppy before it had breathed, in tepid water. One of our own physiologists thought it possible to make a tardigrade animal out of a vivacious spaniel by putting ligatures upon the arteries which go to its limbs, and forcing the blood to take a circuitous course, by numerous channels, to the muscles. We need hardly say that these experiments failed. They were undertaken in a misconception of the living properties; which are more finely adjusted than any thing to be seen in the mere mechanism of the body. Every muscle of the body has its prescribed mode of action, from the unwearied irritability of the heart to the effort of the muscle which guides the pen. Some are ever in action with but short intervals; others act in regular succession: some are under the will, others withdrawn from it; some act quickly as the heart, others act slowly as the stomach; but these are original endowments, and do not result from the force or languor of the circulation of the part.

Were the arteries of the living body like rigid tubes, and the laws of the circulation the same as those of hydraulics, a subdivided and tortuous artery would certainly be the means of retarding the circulation. But it is impossible to believe