

refer them to their respective origins in different parts of the surface. It is also expedient that the internal organs of the body should have some sensibility; but it is better that this should be very limited in degree, since the occasions are few in which its exercise would be useful, and many in which it would be positively injurious: hence, the nerves of sensation are distributed in less abundance to these organs.

It is not sufficient that the nerves of touch should communicate the perceptions of the simple pressure or resistance of the bodies in contact with the skin: they should also furnish indications of other qualities in those bodies, of which it is important that the mind be apprized; such, for example, as warmth, or coldness. Whether these different kinds of impressions are all conveyed by the same nervous fibres, it is difficult, and, perhaps, impossible to determine.

When these nerves are acted upon in a way which threatens to be injurious to the part impressed, or to the system at large, it is also their province to give warning of the impending evil, and to rouse the animal to such exertions as may avert it; and this is effected by the sensation of pain, which the nerves are commissioned to excite on all these occasions. They act the part of sentinels, placed at the outposts, to give signals of alarm on the approach of danger.

Sensibility to pain must then enter as a necessary constituent among the animal functions; for, had this property been omitted, the animal system would have been but of short duration, exposed, as it must necessarily be, to perpetual casualties of every kind. Lest any imputation should be attempted to be thrown on the benevolent intentions of the great Author and Designer of this beautiful and wondrous fabric, so expressly formed for varied and prolonged enjoyment, it should always be borne in mind that the occasional suffering, to which an animal is subjected from this law of its organization, is far more than counterbalanced by the consequences arising from the capacities for pleasure, with which it has been beneficently ordained that the healthy exercise of the functions should be accompanied. Enjoyment