

appears universally to be the main end, the rule, the ordinary and natural condition; while pain is but the casualty, the exception, the necessary remedy, which is ever tending to a remoter good, in subordination to a higher law of creation.

It is a wise and bountiful provision of nature that each of the internal parts of the body has been endowed with a particular sensibility to those impressions which, in the ordinary course, have a tendency to injure its structure; while it has, at the same time, been rendered nearly, if not completely, insensible to those which are not injurious, or to which it is not likely to be exposed. Tendons and ligaments, for example, are insensible to many causes of mechanical irritation, such as cutting, pricking, and even burning: but the moment they are violently stretched, that being the mode in which they are most liable to be injured, they instantly communicate a feeling of acute pain. The bones, in like manner, scarcely ever communicate pain in the healthy state, except from the application of a mechanical force which tends to fracture them.

The system of nerves, comprising those which are designed to convey the impressions of touch, is universally present in all classes of animals; and among the lowest orders, they appear to constitute the sole medium of communication with the external world. As we rise in the scale of animals, we find the faculties of perception extending to a wider range, and many qualities, depending on the chemical action of bodies, are rendered sensible, more especially those which belong to the substances employed as food. Hence arises the sense of taste, which may be regarded as a new and more refined species of touch. This difference in the nature of the impressions to be conveyed, renders it necessary that the structure of the nerves, or, at least, of those parts of the nerves which are to receive the impression, should be modified and adapted to this particular mode of action.

As the sphere of perception is enlarged, it is made to