

prehend the benevolent effect of it, or in other words, its necessity to our very existence, I may be excused for stating the argument to the reader as I have delivered it in my lectures to the College of Surgeons.

“ Without meaning to impute to you inattention or restlessness, I may request you to observe how every one occasionally changes his position and shifts the pressure of the weight of his body ; were you constrained to retain one position during the whole hour, you would rise stiff and lame. The sensibility of the skin is here guiding you to that, which if neglected, would be followed even by the death of the part. When a patient has been received into the hospital with paralysis of the lower part of the body, we must give especial directions to the nurse and attendants that the position of his limbs be changed at short intervals, that pillows be placed under his loins and hams, and that they be often shifted. If this be neglected, you know the consequence to be inflammation of the parts that press upon the bed ; from which come local irritation, then fever and mortification and death.

“ Thus you perceive that the natural sensibility of the skin, without disturbing your train of thought, induces you to shift the body so as to permit the free circulation of the