

PHILOSOPHY OF VITAL MOTION

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Philosophy of vital motion by Charles Bland Radcliffe

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THE PHILOSOPHY
OF
VITAL MOTION.

BY

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CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

| | PAGE |
|--|------|
| PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS RESPECTING VITAL MOTION | 1 |

CHAPTER II.

OF VITAL MOVEMENTS.

| | |
|--|----|
| A. OF VITAL MOVEMENTS IN VESSELS AND CELLS | 10 |
|--|----|

SECTION I.

| | |
|--|----|
| OF VITAL MOVEMENTS IN THE VESSELS, CELLS, AND INTER-CELLULAR PASSAGES OF THE PLANT | 11 |
| I. In the laticiferous vessels (cyclosis) | 14 |
| II. In simple cells, (including the phenomena of "rotation") | 20 |
| III. In the plant generally (circulation of the sap). | 27 |

SECTION II.

| | |
|--|----|
| OF VITAL MOVEMENTS IN THE VESSELS AND CELLS OF ANIMAL BODIES | 32 |
| I. In capillary vessels | 33 |
| II. In cells | 49 |

CHAPTER III.

| | |
|--|----|
| B. OF VITAL MOVEMENTS SUCH AS ARE SEEN IN THE IRRITABLE TUMOURS OF THE SENSITIVE PLANT, IN THE COATS OF THE ALIMENTARY CANAL, AND IN VOLUNTARY MUSCLES | 52 |
|--|----|

SECTION I.

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| IN THE IRRITABLE TUMOURS OF THE SENSITIVE PLANT | 52 |

SECTION II.

| | |
|--|----|
| IN THE COATS OF THE ALIMENTARY CANAL AND IN VOLUN- TARY MUSCLES | 56 |
| I. In the coats of the alimentary canal, &c. | 62 |
| II. In the voluntary muscles | 71 |

CHAPTER IV.

| | |
|--|-----|
| C. OF VITAL MOVEMENTS IN THE HEART | 106 |
|--|-----|

CHAPTER V.

| | |
|---|-----|
| OF THE NERVOUS INFLUENCE AS AN AGENT IN VITAL MOVEMENT | 126 |
|---|-----|

CHAPTER VI.

| | |
|---|-----|
| OF THE ACTION OF MIND IN VITAL MOVEMENT | 128 |
|---|-----|

P R E F A C E.

IN a work lately published under the title of "*Proteus; or, the Law of Nature*," I have endeavoured to realize that unity, or *τὸ ἓν*, which is said to ensoul the diversities of things, and bind them together in one. I have traced this principle in plant and animal, not merely as a vague generality, but as pervading the entire structure—from a simple organ to a perfect organism, and from the complicated nervous, vascular, or osseous systems, to the more rudimentary parts of the economy. I have traced, also, the same principle into inorganic bodies;—so that in relation to form, we may conclude that there is one archetypal law in all created things, whether animate or inanimate. Heat, light, chemical affinity, electricity, motion, and other physical agencies, have also been found to be connected with each other, and with the more recondite vital influences, as correlative aspects of one central force; so that the unity of creation is reflected in force as well as form. And finally, this principle