many different parts: they may be considered, therefore, as performing, with regard to the vital functions, an office analogous to that which the brain and spinal marrow perform with regard to the other nerves, or as being secondary centres of nervous power. Thus, there are two important objects for which the nerves belonging to the ganglionic system have been provided; first, to serve as the channels through which the affections of one organ might be enabled to influence a distant organ; and secondly, to be the medium through which the powers of several parts might be combined and concentrated for effecting particular purposes, requiring such co-operation. Hence it is by means of the ganglionic nerves that all the organs and all the functions are rendered efficient in the production of a common object, and are brought into one comprehensive and harmonious system of operation.

The nervous power, the effects of which we are here considering, should be carefully distinguished from that power which is an attribute of another portion of the nervous system, and which, being connected with sensation, volition, and other intellectual operations, has been denominated *sensorial power*.* The functions of digestion, circulation, absorption, secretion, and all those included under the class of nutrient or vital functions, are carried on in secret, are not necessarily, or even usually attended with sensation, and are wholly removed from the control of volition. Nature has not permitted processes, which are so important to the preservation of life, to be in any way interfered with by the will of the animal. We know that in ourselves they go on as well during sleep as when we are awake, and whether our attention be directed to them or not; and though occasionally influenced by strong emotions, and other affections of mind, they are in general quite independent of every intellectual process. In the natural and healthy condition of

* This distinction has been most clearly pointed out and illustrated by Dr. A. P. W. Philip. See his "Experimental Inquiry into the Laws of the Vital Functions."