

that Mercury, whether in disease or in health, acts as an universal stimulus. He says, "Conspicuously there is no article of the Materia Medica so diffusive in its effects, which pervading the whole system, enters into every recess and acting on every part, leaves no morbid impression untouched." Dr. Rush on the other hand supposed that the beneficial effects of Mercury were altogether owing to its exciting a fever in the whole system, and thus destroying the existing disease. His great axiom being, that two diseases cannot exist in the system at the same time. He further supposed that the action of disease in which Mercury was useful, was centripetal, the new action that Mercury produced, was centrifugal. Hence the latter, was much less dangerous than the former. He further inferred that when the diseased action was greater than the action Mercury could excite, the remedy was useless or pernicious. He therefore used the lancet in highly inflammatory states of disease, previously to the use of Mercury. Dr. Hamerton, in his late work on Mercury, says; "That it accelerates the action of the heart and arteries, excites ptyalism and