

classification, at once correct and easy of comprehension, is so manifest, as in those which form the subject of the treatise under review. We have said *correct* classification, as, unfortunately, *incorrect* nosological arrangements have done more to establish and perpetuate erroneous opinions of various morbid states of the body, than any other single cause with which we are acquainted. Up to the latter part of the 16th century much confusion existed in this department of dermatology. The attempts to arrange diseases of the skin in some kind of order, made previously to this time, were few and exceedingly imperfect. Nor was the *topographical system*, proposed by Girolamo Mercuriali, the Paduan Professor, and published in 1623, calculated to remove the uncertainties in which the subject of cutaneous diseases was involved. It was, however, a step in the right direction. By this system, all diseases of the skin were divided into those which had their seat on the scalp, and those which affected the general surface of the body. A classification simple enough, but obviously open to serious objection. It was adopted afterward, with modifications, by Turner, and subsequently by Alibert. The latter, however, soon threw it aside, and proposed in its stead the elaborate classification with which his name stands connected. About the same period, the beginning of the 17th century, Willan published his *artificial system*, which, for simplicity and conciseness of arrangement, and the facilities it afforded to the profession to acquire a proper knowledge of cutaneous affections, far surpassed the more pretentious *natural system* of his learned contemporary. To Professor Plenck of Vienna, Willan was indebted for the idea of arranging those affections in groups, determined by their character and external appearances. Plenck divided them into fourteen groups or orders: Willan into the following eight: 1 Papulæ; 2 Squamæ; 3 Exanthemata; 4 Bullæ; 5 Pustulæ; 6 Vesiculæ; 7 Tubercula; 8 Maculæ.

Dr. Neligan, in common with the great majority of modern dermatologists, has adopted the Willanean system as the basis of his classification. He makes ten groups:—1 Exanthemata; 2 Vesiculæ; 3 Pustulæ; 4 Papulæ; 5 Squamæ; 6 Hypertrophie; 7 Hemorrhagiæ; 8 Maculæ; 9 Cancerodes; 10 Dermatophytæ; and adds “two supplementary groups, Syphilides, and diseases of the appendages of the skin.” It will be seen that Doctor Neligan omits the fourth and seventh orders of Willan, and introduces four new ones. He adopts from Rayer's classification the appellations Hypertrophie and Hemorrhagiæ. In the former order he includes, with the diseases which Willan, Gilbert Cazenave and others place under the caption of Tubercula, those affections which Mr. Erasmus Wilson, in his excellent natural system, arranges in a group under the designation of “Hypertrophy of the Papillæ of the Derma.” Purpura is the only disease in the order Hemorrhagiæ. As Purpura is essentially a blood disease, of which the sub-