

have here a sort of epitome of the present state of knowledge on the points considered; but we would have preferred that Dr. Dunglison's experience had been thrown into the balance, so that one or the other scale might have been turned. In the physiological portion there is the same deficiency; but here, as results are more often arrived at by experiment than by experience, it might be less remarkable, were it not that Dr. D., from his position, leads us again to expect something else than disappointment. In the discussion of the *modus operandi* of medicines, the old difficulties of the subject, to our mind, are not cleared up. Speaking of the general action of medicines through the nerves, the experiments of Dupuy and Blake are stated; the first of which incline to the necessity of nervous agency, while the latter that absorption and circulation are competent to account for the most rapid effects. Dr. D. simply expresses himself rather in favor of the former, and then briefly gives as a reason the difficulty of conceiving any other explanation to be possible.

A prevailing fault with prolific writers is to refer the indulgent reader from the book he is engaged upon to some other of their lengthy series; it being assumed that if he have one, he is in possession of the whole. But unless he be thus fortunate, he soon feels that a mention of the source is not equivalent to a detail of the information. In Dr. D.'s present work, it is announced that chloroform has many special uses; but when we search, be it ever so diligently, for their enumeration, we are disappointed in only learning that they may be found in the author's work on *new remedies*, in the possession of which we cannot rejoice.

Dr. D. has constructed a different classification of medicines to that adopted in the earlier editions. He makes six orders of medicines; as they affect prominently the alimentary canal; the respiratory organs; the glandular organs; the nervous system; the organs of reproduction, and various organs. To these he adds two more orders of medicines, as their actions are chemical or mechanical. The last only includes demulcents and diluents: we wonder which of these would claim for its own a pound dose of crude mercury when given on mechanical principles in *intussusceptio*? Antilithics do not fall under the chemical, as might be supposed, but are included in a class with errhines, diaphoretics, and some others, because the three specified affect, *par excellence*, glandular organs!

Writers on *materia medica* do not seem to keep in view the actual wants of the student. The best production is not suited to his capacity, and cannot be used as a *vade mecum*, while the less ponderous falls short somewhere or other of his requirements. To the latter class belongs the treatise before us, for it is occasionally silent, though more often deficient in description of the physiological effects; chemical characteristics;