

we would have been rejoiced had it been strengthened by their finding some place in his production.

The Medical Society of London offered in 1852, the Fothergillian gold medal for the best essay "on the mode in which therapeutic agents, introduced into the stomach, produce their peculiar effects on the animal economy." Dr. Headland was the successful competitor, and for his present work was adjudged the prize.

The author commences by examining the various classifications of medicines which have been projected by his predecessors, and as he finds none unobjectionable, declines adopting any; and in lieu proposes the following classification of medicines, which act, after entering into the blood, according to their supposed modes of operation. Class I. *HÆMATICA*.—Div. 1. *Restaurantia*. Ordines. *Alimenta, acida, alkalina, tonica, chalybeata et solventia*. Div. 2. *Catalytica*. Ordines. *Antiphlogistica, antisypilitica, antiscrofulosa, antiarthritica, antiscorbutica, antiperiodica, anticonvulsiva, and antisquamosa*. Class II. *NEUROTICA*.—Div. 1. *Stimulantia*. Ordines. *S. generalia et specifica*. Div. 2. *Narcotica*. Ordines. *Inebriantia, somnifera, deliriantia*. Div. 3. *Sedantia*. Ordines. *S. generalia et specifica*. Class III. *ASTRINGENTIA*.—Ordines. *A. mineralia et vegetabilia*. Class IV. *ELIMINANTIA*.—Ordines. *Sialagoga, expectorantia, cathartica, cholagoga, diaphoretica, diuretica*.

We agree with the author in his objections, as they are just and weighty, but we think his amendment is not much of an improvement on former classifications. Two very obvious exceptions may be taken to it, the one for its hypothetical foundation, the other for its incongruous character. In reality, every medicine by which health is recovered, is a restorative; but as a more limited signification has been given to the term, we examine it accordingly, and certainly have to question the propriety of associating together aliments and solvents, alkalies and chalybeates. Special sedatives assimilate ipecacuanha and digitalis; and general sedatives, hydrocyanic acid and colchicum; but for what reason we have not yet divined. His arrangement is also incomplete. Emetics are wholly excluded from the orders, &c., although many of them act through the blood, and even when applied to other absorbing surfaces than the gastric.

The author discusses his subject under the following ten propositions:—I. That the great majority of medicines must obtain entry into the blood, or internal fluids of the body, before their action can be manifested. II. That the great majority of medicines are capable of solution in the gastric or intestinal secretions, and pass without material change by a process of absorption, through the coats of the stomach and intestines, to enter the capillaries of the portal system of veins. III. That those medicines which are completely insoluble in water, and in the gastric