

may be done through the medium of common sensation. Of the remedies acting directly on the body, some are imponderable, such as Light, Heat and Electricity; others are of a surgical or mechanical nature, and the remainder are the Medicines as above defined. Medicines act Physiologically and Therapeutically: by the former is understood the effect medicines have on the system without reference to disease; by the latter the action they manifest on the disease—for example, the Physiological effects of an Emetic are nausea, vomiting, &c., while the Therapeutical may be the cure of Jaundice, or Headache, or the prevention of a paroxysm of ague. The Physiological effects of remedies are divided into Local and Remote; some medicines are exclusively local in their action confining themselves to the place to which they are applied, acting mechanically or chemically on the surface; sometimes when the action is extended, it is only to the adjacent parts, but in the majority of instances, parts far removed are more or less effected. Local actions may be said then to be manifested previous to absorption, and remote ones subsequent to it. Medicines produce their effects on the system either by mechanical, chemical or vital means. 1st. Mechanical—by excluding atmospheric air, and protecting parts in various ways; by external form and weight; and more important still, medicines act mechanically through the influence they have over the Phenomena of Exosmose and Endosmose.

When the serum of the blood is separated from another liquid by an organic membrane, two currents are in general established, one from the serum to the solution, the other from the solution to the serum. When the intensity of the first exceeds that of the second, it is called endosmose of the serum, but when the intensity of the second exceeds that of the first, it is called endosmose of the solution. This action is supposed to go on not only before but after the absorption of medicines into the circulation. This is supposed to explain the action of many medicines, more especially those of a saline character. Those whose specific gravity is greater than that of the serum of the blood, producing endosmose of the serum and purging; those on the other hand whose

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