

thereby giving rise to a classification founded on the nature of these alterations themselves.

The spirit of inquiry resulting from this unrestricted liberty of reasoning, has been directed to the study of particular organs ; but it must be acknowledged that the study of the viscera is yet the least cultivated, if we compare their importance in the organization, the obscurity which envelopes a number of the affections to which they are liable, and the consequent difficulties attending their treatment. It is to be hoped, however, that this subject will meet with that consideration to which it is so justly entitled, and in the mean time, we must feel satisfied that the work before us, is one which from its minute researches and the illustrative documents which it contains, is a valuable acquisition to the practitioner.

In the preface, the Author announces that his book will be found to contain his own observations and reflexions, and "the reader must not expect to find in this work a regular history of the abdominal diseases as they are recorded by the authors, who have collected the opinions of others, on this ample and important theme." This mode of instruction is not altogether so undeserving as might at first appear, when we consider how advantageous it is for the interest of science, that the opinions and experience of observers should stand the test of others engaged in the same pursuits ; but we fear that this exclusion of other writer's opinion may become, in less honorable hands, the cause of idle attempts to draw false conclusions from isolated facts and *ex parte* experiments, besides the necessity which it imposes on the practitioner, residing at a distance from the Metropolis, of collecting a number of works on one subject which might sometimes be encompassed in less voluminous and expensive sizes.

The book which we have perused in the preceding article, is a very satisfactory evidence of this truth, as it contains all