

drugs are arranged in a tripe way ; into those, 1. affecting the functions, as emetics, cathartics, diuretics, diaphorics, expectorants, cholagogues, emmenagogues, uterine motor-stimulants, sialagogues, errhines. 2. Affecting the organization as rubefacients, epispastics and escharotics. 3. Operating mechanically as stimulants, emollients, demulcents and protectives. Non-systemics are but of two sorts, either antacids or anthelmintics. It were perhaps easy to take exception to this classification, by objections raised not so much against the manner in which it has been effected, as against the principle upon which it has been founded. But this would not then be altogether fair to the author, who, considering the faultiness of the plan by which he worked, has probably elaborated a less objectionable form of arrangement than his predecessors who have built upon the same model, so that we may say of his classification as the learned Dr. Samuel Johnson said of Dr. Watts, "devotional poetry. "It is sufficient for Watts, (Woods) to have done better than others, what no man has done well."

As further instances of Dr. W's mode of treating this important subject, with which we first started, we adduce the following example:—The acting of the class of astringents it is well known has been hazily defined, and hence given rise to much improbable conjecture. In reference to it, Dr. W. remarks, "the following appears to me to be the true explanation of the phenomena, as far as they are at present susceptible of explanation. All the living tissues have a certain degree of vital cohesion essential to the due performance of their functions; and this cohesion probably depends on a property of organic contractility, which is called into action and sustained by the healthy stimulus of the blood and nervous influence. If these fail, the cohesion diminishes and a condition of relaxation takes place. Now astringent substances have the peculiar property of stimulating this organic contractility; and it is this property by which they are characterized as a class of medicines. All that we know upon the subject is, that in consequence of the contact of these substances with the tissues, the contractility of the latter is called into action and they shrink." We admire these passages for, as we take it, their display of medical sense and manly frankness, which are good solid possessions too seldom met with. Of a similar order are the pertinent remarks, on the action of cod liver oil, "the best explanation, I think of its operation is that it possesses the power of directly stimulating the blood-making and nutritive functions, in a manner analogous to that of other tonics, and in certain cases more effectively than they." "It does not simply fatten. It improves the digestive