

succinct account of all the articles of the *Materia Medica* in use in this country." This aim has, in the work itself, been fully attained, and many substances, which have but of late come into notice, have been introduced, such as the Calabar Bean, Rhigolene, Carbolic Acid, Iodoform, &c. The ground to be covered, however, is very extensive, and the volume being compressed to the space of 348 pages, we are afraid that at times, for the sake of brevity, valuable and even important information is necessarily excluded, still, as a compendium of the *Materia Medica*, subsidiary to larger works of reference, it will, we have no doubt, be found very useful to students. One feature in it, which we think undoubtedly enhances its value to the Canadian student, is its containing short descriptions of many of the native medicinal plants, the virtues of which are to a great extent ignored amongst us but are recognised in the United States; of these we may mention the following: the *Coptis Trifolia*, *Cornus Florida*, *Sanguinaria Canadensis*, the *Eupatorium*, *Erigeron*, *Apocynum*, *Cimicifuga Racemosa*, *Althea Officinalis* &c.. Several of these would, we believe, be found to serve as excellent substitutes for much more expensive imported drugs, and a study of their medicinal properties would be of great use especially to country practitioners. We would therefore confidently recommend the book. It is well printed on good paper.

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## PERISCOPIC DEPARTMENT.

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### Medicine.

#### LECTURE ON THE TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

By SAMUEL WILKS, M.D., Physician to, and Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine at Guy's Hospital.

The remedies for nervous diseases are mostly of two kinds. There are those which act directly on the nervous system, and are hoped to cure either by setting up a counter-action, or by producing a temporary soothing effect until time works the result, and there are those which are styled the nervine tonics, consisting mostly of the metal.

It is remarkable how little has been accomplished with the first class of remedies—those which have a physiological action on the nerves. For it does not seem to follow that a medicine which has a striking physiological action is of any value in a therapeutical point of view. It might be thought that strychnia was the remedy to rouse the dormant