

some, the acids of the stomach and intestinal canal others, and the alkaline secretion of the Liver and Pancreas others, although some medicines have been found in the chyle, yet this is not the natural entrance for them, the Lacteals are not always in a condition suitable for taking up medicines, and undoubtedly they would thus act much less expeditiously. If anything more is required to shew that the Lacteals play but a very secondary part in the absorption of medicines, the fact may be mentioned that the stopping up of this channel does not in the slightest degree prevent the action of medicines introduced into the intestinal canal. Medicines are absorbed into the blood either unchanged, or somewhat modified, according to circumstances, by the fluids of the intestinal canal: after their entrance they circulate with the blood, some are deposited to a certain extent in the abdominal viscera especially in the Liver, some remain permanently in the blood, but the great majority of them, sooner or later pass out by the excretions, some doing so entirely unchanged, others much altered; some it may be said, merely journey along this highway making it a medium of communication, with either the nervous, muscular system, or the secreting organs, each medicine as it were, having its particular mission, but some on the other hand direct their attention more to the blood itself, altering it in various ways, now changing its color, now changing the size of the corpuscles, now the quantity of the serum and hematin, and now eliminating some noxious principle from it.

#### INFLUENCES MODIFYING THE EFFECTS OF MEDICINES.

These chiefly relate to the organism, although to a certain extent, the doses of medicines, their state of solubility, their combination &c, also exert a modifying influence.

1st Age. It is a general but not a universal law of nature, that the susceptibility to the influence of medicine is inversely proportionate to the size of an animal, but independent of size, in infancy all the tissues are delicate and easily impressed, especially the skin, mucous membrane and the nervous system; on account of the rapid development which it has to superintend,