ART. XLI.—*On the Action of Medicines in the System.* By FREDERICK WILLIAM HEADLAND, M. D., B. A., F. L. S., F. R. C. P., &c. &c. Fifth American, from the fourth London edition. Revised and enlarged. 8vo. pp. 431. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1867.

THE fact that this work has passed through five editions in this country, and four in England, is sufficient evidence that it supplies a want felt to exist by the profession.

The volume consists of four chapters. The first contains some general introductory remarks; in the second some of the more important classifications of medicines, and opinions of authors respecting their actions are treated of; the third is devoted to the consideration of the general modes of action of therapeutic agents introduced into the stomach; and in the fourth the action of some of the more important medicines in particular are discussed.

The subjects treated of in this volume, it will be perceived, are highly important, and it is fair to say that the author has discussed them with fairness and ability.

ART. XLII.—*Headaches: their Causes and their Cure.* By HENRY G. WRIGHT, M. D., M. R. C. S. L., L. S. A., etc. etc. From the Fourth London Edition. 12mo. pp. 154. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1867.

HEADACHE is not a disease; it is simply a symptom, and one which is present, to a certain degree, in the beginning or course of almost every disease, whether acute or chronic, to which man is liable. In certain cases of transient derangement of the digestive organs, headache constitutes a concomitant symptom, disappearing with it and returning whenever it recurs; while in chronic cases of dyspepsia, headache is an almost permanent symptom, aggravated at intervals by a variety of accidental causes, which act primarily upon the stomach and alimentary canal generally, upon the nervous system, or upon the heart.

In reference to headaches—we say, purposely, with Dr. Wright, headaches, for that most troublesome complaint, headache, differs materially in different cases in its character, its intensity, the period of the day at which it is most liable to occur or to exhibit its greatest violence, and the length of its paroxysms; how far it may be profitable to study them independently of the several morbid conditions with which in each case the headache is ordinarily associated, is a question we do not feel inclined on the present occasion to discuss; we will merely remark that in the work before us the author has presented in a brief manner a very interesting, and, in general, correct account of the symptom, its leading characteristics, and the usual morbid conditions with which it is found associated. He briefly considers—1st. The headaches; and 2d. The headaches of adult life. These he divides accordingly as they are—A. Dependent on the circulating system; *a*, the plethoric, which may be *occasional* or *persistent*, and *b*, the congestive. B. Dependent on the digestive organs; *a*, headache of indigestion; *b*, sick headache; *c*, bilious headache. C. Dependent on the nervous system; *a*, ordinary nervous headache; *b*, hysteric headache; *c*, headache of extreme exhaustion and debility; *d*, Megrims; *e*, Brow ague. D. Rheumatic and Gouty headaches. E. Headaches from organic disease. G. Headaches in old age.

In a formal review of Dr. Wright's treatise we should feel it our duty to contest the accuracy of the author's views as to the pathology of headache in certain of the cases in which it forms a prominent symptom. Nevertheless, the work will prove an instructive one to the student and junior practitioner.

D. F. C.