in re-writing parts or the whole of some subjects, so as to convey an accurate knowledge of the present information on these points. In some instances the arrangement has undergone alteration, and with advantage in approximating kindred subjects which were before too distant. These differences from the first edition are too numerous for any detail, very frequently being apparent in each of several successive pages, and very seldom exhibiting any long interval. The merits of this work are so well known that comment is unnecessary, and the present edition is calculated to sustain, and indeed elevate, the reputation the author has already acquired.

In the typographical execution there is an evident improvement over the first American edition, and there will also be noticed a modification in the arrangement, in the almost total absence of foot notes, the additions of the editor being inclosed in brackets, and with the bibliographical references incorporated in the original text of the work. In regard to these latter, it will be noticed that their number, which in the first edition was very great, has been still further increased, not in the newly-added matter only, but also in the older parts—a very valuable aid for those who desire to investigate any subject in all its details.

ART. XXVI.—*Review of Materia Medica, for the Use of Students.* By JOHN B. BIDDLE, M. D. etc. etc. With illustrations. Philadelphia, Lindsay & Blakiston, 1852: 12mo. pp. 322.

This work belongs to a class of productions which, when kept within their proper sphere, are unquestionably calculated to facilitate the labours of the student in the particular branches of knowledge of which they treat, but which, when adopted as substitutes for more extended and elaborate treatises, are productive of no little mischief. As condensed reviews of the elements of the science to which they refer—embracing a brief summary of its leading facts and principles—they may serve as useful guides to a course of lectures, while at the same time they will aid the student in his mental review of the knowledge to the acquisition of which his time and attention have been devoted; correcting misapprehensions, indicating to him what may have escaped his notice, and recalling such points as had been but slightly impressed upon his mind, and, in consequence, liable to be quickly forgotten. When, however, as is too often the case, they are made the sole guides to science—when the student believes that, by committing the brief summary they present of leading facts and principles to memory, he has acquired an adequate acquaintance with any given branch of science—their tendency is then in the highest degree mischievous. They discourage close and prolonged application—that full and thorough acquisition of knowledge which can alone render it permanent and profitable; and, by substituting in the student a mere act of memory for the exercise of the reasoning, the judging, and the comparing faculties of the mind, works of the character referred to are liable to impede even the subsequent progress of those who have been so unfortunate as to make them their sole guides, rendering to such the most favourable opportunities subsequently presented for improvement in any department of science, barren and profitless.

Keeping in mind then that the work before us is to be viewed as a mere elementary treatise on the *Materia Medica*, as an outline only of the leading facts and principles usually comprised in this branch of medicine, as set forth by the standard authorities; as a review of, rather than as an exposition of the science of which it treats, we can freely recommend it to the attention of the American student.

It is, in fact, a judiciously executed manual of *materia medica*, indicating a perfect familiarity with the subject on the part of its author, and an admirable facility in condensation: all that is actually important in relation to the several received pharmacological remedies being concisely indicated, but at the same time with the utmost clearness and precision.

D. F. C.