

ART. XXIV.—*Synopsis of Lectures on Materia Medica and Pharmacy, delivered in the University of Pennsylvania. With Three Lectures on the Modus Operandi of Medicines.* By JOSEPH CARSON, M.D. Third edition, revised. 8vo. pp. 244. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea, 1863.

IN this volume, the author has furnished to his students a very useful and convenient guide to the course of lectures delivered by him in the University of Pennsylvania. It is presented as a framework only, which, however, the student can, and should fill up from notes taken at the lectures as they are delivered. This synopsis shows that the author's course is well arranged and very thorough and complete.

Appended are three lectures on the *modus operandi* of medicines. The first two are devoted to an exposition of the manner in which medicines act through the nervous system, and the third to the evidence that absorption of certain medicines into the circulation actually takes place, and to an account of the mode in which this is accomplished.

These lectures are well worthy of the careful consideration of students, for they furnish the most plausible exposition of the subject we have met with. Dr. Carson has evidently studied with great care the recent investigations of M. Claude Bernard, and by the aid of the light shed on physiology by the researches of that indefatigable experimental physiologist, he has shown, what in the obscurity of an earlier period could not have been shown, the manner in which medicines act through the nervous system. Dr. C.'s exposition of this subject is most ingeniously and carefully drawn up; and in the present state of physiological science, may be received as correct.

---

ART. XXV.—*Enlarged and Revised to 1864. The Medical Formulary: being a Collection of Prescriptions derived from the writings and practice of many of the most eminent physicians in America and Europe. Together with the usual Dietetic Preparations and Antidotes for Poisons. To which is added an Appendix on the Endermic Use of Medicines, and on the Use of Ether and Chloroform. The whole accompanied with a few brief Pharmaceutical and Medical Observations.* By BENJAMIN ELLIS, M.D., late Prof. of Mat. Med. and Pharm. in Philad. Coll. Pharm. Eleventh edition, carefully revised and much extended, by ROBERT P. THOMAS, M.D., Prof. Mat. Med. in Philada. Coll. Pharm. 8vo. pp. 341. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea, 1864.

AMONG the numerous difficulties which the young practitioner has to encounter, not the least is the correct and judicious formation of prescriptions. The design of this volume is to afford assistance in overcoming this difficulty—to furnish models for extemporaneous formulas, the proportions of the ingredients of which may be increased or diminished, according to the age, sex, constitution, or idiosyncrasy of the patient, or of other circumstances.

That it has fulfilled this object, and supplied a want which the young physician felt to exist, the fact that ten large editions have been exhausted, and an eleventh demanded, would seem to afford sufficient proof.

The work is now so well known, and has been so frequently noticed in this Journal as the successive editions appeared, that it is sufficient, on the present occasion, to state that the editor has introduced into the eleventh edition a large amount of new matter, derived from the current medical and pharmaceutical works, as well as a number of valuable prescriptions furnished from private sources. A very comprehensive and extremely useful index has also been supplied, which facilitates reference to the particular article the prescriber may