ART. XI.—*Compendium of the Ligaments; illustrated by Woodcuts, with the Articular Cartilages, Interarticular or Moveable Fibro-Cartilages, Synovial Membranes, and Bursa Mucosæ of the Joints; the Mode of Union, and the Bones entering into the Composition of each; and an Outline of the Dislocations, Fractures, Physiology, and Pathology.* By A. M'NAB, jun. M.R.C.S. L. 1835. pp. 86.

THE little compilation bearing the above title, is a concise and tolerably well digested statement of the subjects of which it professes to treat. It can hardly be expected that in eighty-six pages of a small duodecimo anything beyond an outline of such subjects can be afforded; and it must require more than ordinary powers of judicious compression to render such an outline of much practical utility; the imperfections, therefore, of the present treatise are rather those of manuals in general, than of this particular performance. These objections are not applicable to the anatomical or physiological parts of the work; the former is well arranged and carefully executed; and the latter sufficient for all practical purposes. Of the woodcuts, we cannot speak favourably.

In that portion of his *Compendium* in which the author has treated of the anormal conditions of the parts, to the consideration of which his work is devoted, his object has evidently been to collect a great quantity of matter; and in so doing he has evinced considerable industry. The chief defects (in treating of dislocations and fractures,) consist in occasional omissions of the causes of such injuries, circumstances the knowledge of which assists so materially in diagnosis; in an insufficient notice of difficulties arising from complications; and in a deficiency on the subject of differential diagnosis. Of the diseases of bones and joints, a succinct and faithful account, as far as so much condensation will allow, has been given; but the remedial means are prescribed without sufficiently associating them with the conditions in which they should be individually employed. The author's style would admit of considerable improvement; the want of a proper employment of periods, and an indulgence in long sentences, giving a heaviness and confusedness to his composition.

We may recommend the work to those who require an accurate account of ligaments; but in its surgical department it can scarcely be of much utility.

ART. XII.—*Illustrations of the Botany and other Branches of the Natural History of the Himalayan Mountains, and of the Flora of Cashmere.* By J. FORBES ROYLE, Esq., F.L.S., &c. London. August, 1835. Part VIII. Folio.

As only a single number of this splendid book has come into our possession, since we commenced our critical labours, we must put off to a future occasion such a review of the whole of the Parts published, as the importance of the work claims at our hands. We must, however, say of the present Part that the plates, eleven in number, nine of botanical and two of zoological subjects, are extremely beautiful, being very finely coloured, and the representations clearly possessing that *naturalness* of character which enables us almost to say that a portrait is *like*, even

although unacquainted with the original. The text is rich in original details, as well as in elaborate scientific researches; and every thing bearing on the *Materia Medica*, whether as acknowledged in the schools or as existing only in the unwritten dispensatories of the natives of the country, is studiously noticed. Mr. Forbes Royle, amid his botanical science, seems always to keep in view his own profession.

ART. XIII.—*The British Medical Almanack, and Supplement.* 1836.
London. Small 8vo. Pp. 160.

THE industry of the editor, and the exertions of the publisher of this excellent annual, are equally conspicuous in this, which is the second year of the appearance of this almanack. It is literally *full* of information, admirably selected and arranged. To the calendar is appended a chronological history of medicine. Lists are given of all the public medical bodies, and of the medical officers of nearly every public institution in the kingdom. Numerous useful particulars are inserted relating to all the universities and schools of medicine, and to various learned societies. The lecturers, the fees, the hours of lecture, of all the great schools of London, are stated in tables; and the expence of attending the hospitals, of dresserships, &c., are given in a similar manner. Accurate information has been collected for its pages, concerning all the provincial schools, and many provincial societies; as well as concerning the Faculty of Medicine of Paris. Indeed there is scarcely a subject on which occasional information is required, either by practitioners or by students, in relation to the general state of the profession, which is not here to be found.

In the Supplement, now for the first time added, we observe numerous notices of statistical interest; an account of English and French weights, and of new medicines; of tests of the urine, and the hydrometer; a short but correct and useful description of the signs derived by auscultation and percussion, with a tabular view of them; a list of antidotes of several of the poisons, and directions for the treatment of asphyxia; with an abstract of the Anatomy Act. The statistical tables relate to the mean weight and height of the human body at all ages; the weight of the skeleton, brain, and heart; the laws of human mortality; the average number of *females* dying annually; the mortality and diseases of armies; the proportion of sickness at different ages; statistics of the English hospitals, (*this seems particularly deserving of the attention of the medical officers of town and country hospitals*); statistics of the epidemic cholera in England (the *Facts* by the late Sir David Barry); the bills of mortality; tables illustrating the laws of disease, &c. &c. On many of these subjects, it is well known to practitioners, particularly in the country, that correct information is not readily to be attained: that given in the supplement to the British Medical Almanack bears every mark of having been prepared with the utmost care. We are justified in saying that there is no existing work in which so many important particulars are condensed into so very cheap a book. The work is got up with great neatness, and independent of its *professional* merits, answers the purpose of a very convenient calendar for the meteorologist and botanist. A medical almanack has long been wanted, and a more useful one than this could hardly be imagined.