Notwithstanding the somewhat disjointed, unsymmetrical, and heterogeneous composition of these "Reports," due, in great part, to the causes already mentioned, they will be found very pleasant and instructive. The editor deserves credit for his energetic enterprise, and a just measure of the real value of the work cannot be made until he and his able collaborators have completed their task according to its original conception. E. R.

ART. XXXVIII.—*A Physician's Problems.* By CHARLES ELAM, M.D., M.R.C.P. 12mo. pp. 400. Boston: Fields, Osgood & Co., 1869.

THE object of Dr. E. is to present in a popular form the results of the most recent investigation of certain matters that deeply concern the happiness and welfare of men. "The book," he says, "is a contribution to the natural history of those outlying regions of thought and action, whose domain is the 'debatable ground' of brain, nerve, and mind." The fruits of modern research are thus made accessible to all, and enter into the common stock of popular knowledge. Books of this kind are among the wants of the time, for the great ends of science are lost so long as its results are confined to journals and treatises devoted exclusively to science, and unknown, of course, to the general mass of readers. Thus, for instance, much has been learned, during the last twenty-five years, respecting the laws of natural heritage, and though this information is of incalculable importance in the due regulation of the social relations, yet it is but little known beyond the pale of the medical profession, and not very extensively there. In performing his task, the author has avoided the common fault of either going above or below the comprehension of the average mind, although in leaving so many of his quotations in the original Latin, Greek, or French, he has presumed too much on the acquisitions of his readers. It is always well to translate for the benefit of the "country members," who, in these days, greatly outnumber all others. He has not always borne in mind the sacred obligation resting upon every scientific writer of strictly verifying his statements of facts. Thus, he states that "of the lunatics confined in asylums in the United States, there are 7520 who have become so entirely owing to this 'spirit-faith.'" This is one of those Munchausen stories, like that which went the rounds of the newspaper press, a year or two ago, of twelve or fifteen hundred young women of the first families in New York applying for admission into the Binghampton Asylum for Inebriates, and that of one-half or more of the inmates of the insane hospitals of France being political prisoners who never had been insane—stories that only enlarge our conceptions of the incalculable extent of human credulity. The truth is, that the inmates of our insane hospitals, all told, little exceed the number of those alleged to have been made insane by spiritual manifestations.

We cannot close this notice without entering our protest against the awkward practice followed by Dr. E. of placing his citations at the end of the book, instead of the bottom of the page. How a writer can deliberately subject his readers to the annoyance of interrupting the course of thought every few minutes, in order to hunt for a citation in some other part of the book, is quite inconceivable.

With these trivial abatements, the book is one which scientific men will find convenient for reference, and which intelligent persons who make no pretension to science will find it profitable to read. Messrs. Fields, Osgood & Co. have done their part by investing it with those attractions of print and paper which characterize all their publications. I. R.