Here we would be glad to stop ; but it is our duty to point out to our readers that this whole volume is extracted, almost verbatim, and with but a few trifling additions, from the author's larger work, which was referred to in our opening paragraph. This plan of making two books out of one is convenient, and may be advantageous in a pecuniary point of view, but is scarcely fair to the purchaser, unless it be much more distinctly stated in the preface than is the case in this instance, that the new book is in fact but a part of the old one. As to the *originality* of the old one, we would invite our readers to refer to the Bibliographical Notices of the *second* and *fourth* editions, which appeared in the numbers of this Journal for April, 1858, p. 487, and Jan. 1864, p. 225. We regret to be obliged to say that Mr. Ashton has not profited by the animadversions of our distinguished predecessors in the critical department of this Journal, and gives in the volume now before us even less indication of his obligations to Dr. Bushe's monograph, than in previous issues of his work. Perhaps Mr. Ashton thinks that by having continuously used Dr. Bushe's brains without acknowledgment for sixteen years, he has acquired a right (by what our legal brethren call "precription") to go on doing so for an indefinite period. J. A., Jr.

ART. XXXVII.—*Reports on the Progress of Practical and Scientific Medicine in different parts of the World.* (For the year beginning June 1, 1868, and ending June 1, 1869.) Edited by HORACE DOBELL, M.D., Senior Physician to the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, &c. &c.; assisted by numerous and distinguished coadjutors. 8vo. pp. 645. London: Longmans, Green, Reader, and Dyer, 1870.

A SECOND series of labourers will soon be required to prepare periodical epitomes of the rapidly multiplying Medical and Surgical Year Books, Abstracts, and Compendiums. The present large volume is, however, constructed on a new basis, the author's somewhat bold and very extensive plan being "to bring together in the English language original and independent reports from all parts of the world, written by distinguished men, resident in the countries which they represent." This method of proceeding will doubtless secure papers much more fresh, full, and attractive, than such as can be furnished by the writers of any one nation. The chief practical difficulty will be found in the great accumulation of material, and in the necessity of repeating many statements of essentially the same character. Dr. Dobell averts, at the outset, any close criticism of this first year's "Reports," by asking his readers to accept it as merely "a fragmentary hostage of the next." It was only in December, 1868, that he designed the work, and the subsequent period was too short for completing the necessary correspondence with remote regions. There is, therefore, a marked disproportion in the scope of the several sections. America is represented by only twenty-two pages, although the author was "particularly desirous" to obtain many more. China and India supply a few notes, the pledges of more numerous ones in subsequent issues. The abstract from Great Britain and Ireland occupies one-third of the volume, and those from Germany and France one-fifth. The last named, from the pen of Prof. Villemin, is particularly valuable. There is an interesting contribution from Iceland, chiefly upon the endemic echinococcus disease; and one from Denmark and Sweden, by Dr. Rasmussen. Heather Bigg presents a complete and very readable account of "Mechanical Appliances, Instruments, and Inventions." The subject of "Climate" receives extended notice in a paper on "Change of Climate in the treatment of Chronic Diseases," and in others having special reference to Minnesota, Riviera, Algeria, and the West Coast of Africa. Articles of considerable length appear to be included in Dr. Dobell's plan, and reference is made to one upon tubercle by Dr. Andrew Clark, which was not ready in time for publication. Nearly all the year's work on this subject has, however, been recounted in the reports from different countries.

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 Binghamton 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.