gave me such a stony stare that I saw I had gone too far, and must be more circumspect in future." Considerable difficulty was experienced in getting away from this interesting locality and in stopping the train; but this at last was finally effected "by the simple expedient of standing between the rails and refusing to stir."

We heartily recommend this work to all who desire to be amused, but the scientific aspect of massage remains to be dealt with by some future author.

Clinical Lectures on Important Symptoms. Fasciculus II. On Albuminuria. By THOMAS GRAINGER STEWART, M.D.Ed. Edinburgh: Bell & Bradfute. 1888.

IN our opinion this book is as much a systematic treatise as a clinical volume; it has always seemed to us that true clinical instruction, whether oral or literary, should deal with a patient rather than with a symptom, with individual cases rather than statistical tables. The tendency to systematise our clinical teaching too much, and thus to some extent neglect the importance of careful, accurate, close observation and study of individual cases, is one of the weak points of our present system of hospital teaching. We endeavour to teach clinical medicine as a physiologist would teach physiology in his lecture room. We bring before a large class a patient, and demonstrate him much in the same way as the physiological lecturer would show a recording drum taking a tracing of a frog's heart. The student carries away in his note-book a few remarks on the case, but no practical experience derived from it. The present volume seems to us to be the outcome of such a system, and a very large proportion of the lectures contained in it might quite as well have been delivered in a university class room as in a hospital ward.

With regard to the volume itself, we have to say that it contains an exhaustive and valuable, though quite systematic, discussion of the whole subject of albuminuria, and abounds with statistical tables and accounts of the experimental pathology of renal disease, with which we should hope the ordinary clinical student is seldom troubled outside of the pathology class room or laboratory. The most readable and clinical portions of the book are, we think, the lectures on cirrhosis of the kidney and on waxy disease.

A number of the experiments, examinations, and observations, recorded in the volume, have been made with the

assistance of Drs. Stevens, Gulland, and Boddie. The observations would have been of much greater value and importance had the author been entirely responsible for them all himself. In this connection, we cannot help quoting a remark of the great Louis, whose work on phthisis is now one of the classics of medicine—"I have satisfied myself by comparing my lately collected cases with those collected formerly, of the advantage of not undertaking observation (at least when undertaken with a view to publication) until we have passed very early youth. . . . I am of opinion that for this reason we ought, generally speaking, to place less reliance on cases collected by very young men, and *above all not intrust the task of accumulating facts to them exclusively.* For, besides the objection on the score of age, it is certain that we cannot observe for others with the same zeal, assiduity, and accuracy, that we should for ourselves. And again, if we look to other sciences, do we find those who advance them labouring by proxy? Does the natural philosopher concede to another the task of performing his experiments? Does the chemist confide his analysis to the care of a novice?" These are the opinions of Louis, they are also ours.

Congestive Neurasthenia, or Insomnia and Nerve Depression.

By E. J. WHITTLE, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.S. London: H. K. Lewis. 1889.

THE object of this *brochure* is to bring prominently before the profession a disease or set of symptoms by no means rare, and with which most practitioners are familiar, yet which is often difficult to understand, and often still more difficult to treat. The symptoms are those of nerve derangement, due, in the author's opinion, to cerebral congestion, and consequently to be treated by leeching or venesection.

The most characteristic symptoms of this condition are nerve depression and sleeplessness, both of which vary greatly in degree, and which do not always appear to be in strict ratio. In some cases the sleeplessness may be slight, and in other cases so severe that the patient is unable to rest in bed, and is in some cases impelled to wander about the greater part of the night. The face looks anxious, and the digestive functions are disordered, yet the subjects of this form of disease are generally well nourished, muscular, and wiry, and usually have excellent family and personal histories. The face usually shows signs of congestion, the veins being over-