

The following extract is from an editorial in the January number of the *St. Louis Clinical Record*:—On the most trivial pretext the physician is commanded by the authority of the State, which he dare not disobey, to leave his business, to leave his patient, whose life may be the price of some pettifogger's whim, and dance attendance upon some court of justice (?) while it suits the lawyer's pleasure, and this without compensation! For the fees to which he is legally entitled are generally quietly pocketed by the gentlemanly clerk who issues the subpoenas, with equal grace, cheerfulness and alacrity. That a man's ideas and opinions are his property, as much so as goods and chattels or real estate, is now pretty well recognized; our laws relating to patents and copy-right are based upon the fact. The State has no more right to call for a physician's opinion without offering him due compensation for it, than it has a right to his house and land or his books and instruments. This practice of wholesale robbery has gone about far enough, and the matter ought to be tested before the courts. By right of eminent domain the State may confiscate private property when the public need is great enough to overshadow private right, but only on condition that a just and proper compensation is given. On the same principle, a physician's opinion, based on years of study and careful observation, should be had when the needs of justice demand it, but a compensation should be allowed him in some degree proportionate to the tax made upon his time, and in some way thus repay him for his previous study and application. [So say we.]

FISTULA IN ANO.—Prof. D. Hayes Agnew, makes the following valuable observations: "Very important offices have been attributed to fistulae. They have been thought to be the means of discharging from the system various morbid materials, especially in cases of phthisis pulmonalis. I have never seen any such salutary effect exerted by them in disease of the lungs or in any other disease, and the only question which I ask myself is whether the patient's general health is good enough to warrant the operation. Neither have I ever observed any bad effects follow its performance in cases of pulmonary disease."—*Louisville Med. News*.

THE BLEACHING OF BONES AND IVORY has been rapidly and successfully carried out at the museum of the *Jardin des Plantes*, by immersing the articles in spirits of turpentine, taking care that they are kept a short distance from the bottom. When treated in this manner and exposed to sunlight, a few days, it is said, suffice to free bones from fat and disagreeable odor, and render them beautifully white. Woods of different kinds may also be bleached in this manner. The necessity of keeping the articles from touching the bottom of the vessel is on account of an acid substance which collects at the bottom of this fluid, and is capable of attacking the substance being bleached.—*New York Med. Record*.

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AN OUTBREAK OF ENTERIC FEVER AT THE VILLAGE OF NUNNEY, SOMERSETSHIRE.—The following are the inferences to be drawn from Dr. Ballard's report on the subject:—1. That the fever in Nunney was enteric. 2. That it was brought into the village from a distant place by an individual whose evacuations, and those also of others attacked in the same and the adjoining house, found their way into the Nunney brook at the upper part of the village. 3. That the fever spread in the village in consequence of the villagers habitually drinking the water of the brook thus contaminated, which water was still further polluted with the sewage of the village itself, containing, if not the actual excrement of the sick, yet certainly matters washed out of their soiled linen, and also more or less of their liquid evacuations. 4. That at the time of my visit, actual excrement from cases of enteric fever was finding its way into the brook at a hamlet only half a mile from the village of Nunney. The explanation above given of the origin and spread of fever in Nunney is confirmed by the sudden reduction in the number of fresh cases of the fever on the expiration of the week ending October 5. The causes of pollution of the water of the brook pointed out in the course of this report were still operating, but on and after September 24th, water from an unpolluted source was brought in carts into the village daily for the use of the inhabitants. It could scarcely be expected that the brook water