

"begin, provided that you begin always at the same place. "You may open the right heart first, or the left but let me "impress this upon you, whichever way you adopt, stick to "it." Dr. Sturges supplies a method which we are sure most students, and not a few practitioners, will find it advantageous to study. The author does not expect or wish the student to slavishly adhere to the plan which he gives him, but, so to adapt it to the bent of his own mind, and shape it according to his growing experience, that it may become in course of time, his own property.

Unlike some other manuals of clinical medicine, which are no doubt valuable, and a great assistance to both student and practitioner, the one before us is not a condensed text-book of Practice of Medicine, with a summary, necessarily incomplete, of symptoms and pathology, but it supplies a sort of general formula to work out the problem which is set before us, in every new case of disease with which we meet.

In speaking of the difficulty of the task which he has set before himself, Dr. Struges says, page 13 :

"It may be taken for granted, I think, that no chart or book of instructions can foresee or provide against the many difficulties and sources of error which beset the student in his first analysis of those complex phenomena which are so precisely detailed to him in formal treatises. It should, in fact, be frankly admitted at this stage of his career, that the obscurity and doubt in which he finds himself is not wholly due to his own inexperience, but also, in a measure inherent to the subject itself. The explicit statements and sharply-defined distinctions and classifications of the books have no precise counterpart in nature. It is right and fair that the student should know that there is more of uncertainty and failure and surprise in actual practice than he would be led to expect from systematic lectures, and not be left to wholly over-rate the really wide difference between his own early powers of diagnosis and the degree of precision of which the subject is capable."

The student is urged to examine for himself and to form his own opinions and to form his own judgment, and this manual is intended, in so far as a book can, to supply the training necessary to make the knowledge obtained in the class-room available. Too much dependence is not to be put on the many modern aids to diagnosis, and skill in the use of implements and familiarity with the most recent im-