

United States exceeded in value all the locomotives built in America by \$20,000,000, and the industry is considered now to be scarcely out of its infancy.

Many physicians both in the old and the new world have taken to the automobile. The Automobile Club of Great Britain and Ireland has devoted much time, energy and money during the last few years in carrying out prolonged trials of automobiles. We are told by the *British Medical Journal*, that one of the principal objects of the club is to popularize the use of automobile transport by making extensive trials of the productions of those manufacturers who are willing to submit to their tests. The last trials, which have been recently concluded, were very interesting to medical men, and were confined to cars of low price, the limit being fixed at £200, and the trial of each car lasted six days. In spite of the narrow limit, a large number of different makes were entered. The *Journal* promises to issue at an early date a complete report of the results. In the meantime, however, it states that a number of automobiles performed well, and the medical practitioner may now feel assured that he can purchase a car which is likely to give good satisfaction at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.

CHRONIC CONSTIPATION.

The views of the medical profession on this important and common disease have been very divergent. Some have held it responsible for the gravest symptoms, while others have considered that auto-intoxication from this cause is rare. Nearly all agree, however, that the source of the trouble lies in the innervation of the intestine, leading either to a lessening of the normal peristalsis or to a spasm of the muscular coat. About two years ago Strassburger advanced the theory that chronic constipation was due to a lack of proper stimulus in the intestine, furnished in normal conditions by bacteria and their products. He was able to demonstrate that the feces from patients of this description were abnormally poor in bacteria—in fact, that they contained forty times less than were found in normal feces. This was largely due to the absence of the remnants of digested