

XIV.—*Clinical Lectures on the Diseases of Women and Children.* By GUNNING S. BEDFORD, A.M., M.D., Professor of Obstetrics, the Diseases of Women and Children, and Clinical Midwifery in the University of New York. New York: S. S. & W. Wood. Montreal: B. Dawson. 1855. Pp. 563.

Hail! wayward Gun!

"Parent of vapors and of female wit,

Who give th' hysteric or poetic fit,

On various tempers act by various ways,

Make some take physic, others chatter plays."

Professor Bedford claims for himself the merit of having established in New York an obstetric clinique. Intending it to be an organization worthy of its founder, it was necessary it should present a few distinctive features. It was reserved for extern patients; these came regularly once a week, were prescribed for and descanted upon, they were restricted to females and to children; men, students and young practitioners, also came, observed, and went away gratified. In these *reunions* no reserve was manifested, delicacy was unregarded. The diseases peculiar to females were those most desired, and their ocular proof was the only one of any value. A central eminence was raised; upon this the suffering martyr was conveniently rested; her nakedness exposed; the throng of men and boys gathered around the shrine, and bowed themselves down in token of assent as the words of guidance fell from the lips of their showman. The scene was vivified by colloquial interlardings, and the statements, as they were uttered, fell like treasures into the expectant hearts. Infants, too, were offered up as sacrifices; their baby brows were wreathed with sickly interest, while cries and tears declared their passage through the tormenting ordeal. The enterprise thus ventured was shortly found most encouraging; the original expectations in no wise fell short, and the founder rejoiced in his rising offspring. Patients increased, while students crowded together, and the clinique was decidedly the most popular in the city. Advertisements went abroad telling of the allurements that were in store, and admission was for all, without exception, who could spare a little fee. Reports followed of the most flattering kind; common talk enlarged upon the objects of interest that had been beheld, and upon the knowledge most recently attained. Even accounts fell into print of the descriptions given, and these were arranged to resemble lectures. The latter were first sent out to the subscribers of a magazine that was widely distributed for a small price. As they came, the hot fire of enthusiasm swelled the veins of readers, and expressions of admiration were ejaculated. Desire was not satiated, and now the second time these lectures have