

PREFACE TO FOURTH EDITION. vii

Such of my experiences as I deemed of value in this connection (many of them were gained by sitting at the feet of elderly practitioners) first materialized in the form of some lectures and demonstrations which I gave at the Medical Graduates' College and Polyclinic in 1904. These were afterwards published, chiefly in the *Clinical Journal* and the *Medical Press and Circular*. When they were being put into book form they were supplemented by matter which had been incorporated in articles which had appeared in *The Lancet*, *The Practitioner*, and other periodicals. In each fresh edition this process of laying under contribution portions of my writings which had appeared elsewhere has been steadily persevered with. I am pleased here to record my appreciation of the facilities afforded me by the editors of these periodicals for this form of plagiarism, and to express my thanks to the proprietors of works of less evanescent character, the Oxford Medical Publications in particular, for allowing me to reproduce here portions of what was written primarily for them.

In rereading the proofs of the matter which has been left practically untouched since it first appeared in print, I have been forced to recognize that much of it is in reality once more in the crucible, not so much in detail as in principle. In therapeutics we often adopt measures merely because we know by experience that they succeed. An explanation