

PREFACE TO FOURTH EDITION.

ALL medical works are egotistical; either furtively or frankly. If the matter is not coloured by the author's experience, if it be not presented in the form in which it emerges from the mill of his own brain, the result is a compilation which, though it may have some value in classifying facts, must nevertheless always fail in the more important direction of suggesting ideas. Orthodoxy is an easy comforting thing, but it is very confining. Heterodoxy, which in medicine is synonymous with progress, is a difficult and dangerous thing, but it is very interesting; often, it is even amusing. This book is entirely egotistical, and it is in many respects heterodox. It was first published in 1906; in each succeeding edition very considerable alterations have been introduced; the present one embodies changes greater in number and more considerable in importance than any of the others. The section on Constipation has been entirely rewritten; the chapter on Change of Air has disappeared, to be replaced by one on Minor Glandular Insufficiencies; and a small chapter on Old Age has been added.