

Phipps boy. In announcing his discovery of thoracic percussion, Auenbrugger wrote:

I realize that envy and blame, and even hatred and calumny, have never failed to come to men who have illuminated art or science by their discoveries, or have added to their perfection.

The opposition of Liebig and other leaders to the theory of micro-organisms kept the world in ignorance of it for a generation. The work of Morton in the discovery of anesthesia, of O. W. Holmes in that of puerperal fever, of McDowell, and of Sims in gynecology, as well as of almost all discoverers, was killed as long as possible, and in exactly this way, and precisely by the elder men, the leaders, the judges, the official spokesmen of the profession. If inclined to be ironically humorous, one might suggest that a lecture to our brother elders might well be devoted to a criticism of their evident dereliction in this duty. Dr. Osler blames old men for being no longer young, a foolish criticism at best, and too indiscriminately made, because much of the energizing work and many of the great discoveries have been made by men over forty; but he fails utterly to say a word against their wretchedest fault—the rejection of new truth that the young have discovered.—*American Medicine*.

“The Surgeon and the Public” is the title of a paragraph in an article in a recent number of *McClure's Magazine*, designed to plebify modern surgical ideas and methods. The matter is thus introduced:

“With increased knowledge, the attitude of the surgeon toward the public is changing. Men like Murphy of Chicago, Keen of Philadelphia, Kelly of Baltimore, and Richardson of Boston, are in revolt, more or less open, against the old tenet that the truths of medical science must not be profaned by exposure to the ignorant lay mind. Within certain limits, they are making good use of the public press on a principle which I recently heard expressed thus:

“‘It is an axiom of surgical practice that the earlier the case is taken, the better the chance of success. It follows that, if we can educate the public in the matter of the common surgical ailments, our patients will come to us more promptly, and we can get better results. Beside, with the mystery dissipated, the terror of operations will be greatly diminished. Take a very common case—appendicitis. I venture to say that the majority of persons believes the operation for appendicitis a very danger-