

AIDS TO ELECTRO-THERAPEUTICS

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

FEW advances in medicine have suffered so much and been threatened with such ill repute as the application of electricity as a therapeutic agent in the treatment of disease. This was due, to a great extent, to the ease with which unqualified and often profoundly ignorant persons were able to impose upon the credulity of the public, the imposition, as is usual in such cases, depending largely on promises of attaining a cure in conditions which had resisted the endeavours of orthodox medicine and surgery, and which were, pathologically, though not necessarily symptomatically, incurable. The natural result of the manifold disappointments and financial losses, which form inseparable companions to such a state of affairs, was a tendency to regard the electrotherapist as little better than a charlatan; and there is no doubt that this conclusion, as applied to a considerable section of the untrained lay public engaged in "electrical treatment," was fully justified. During the last few years, however, the devoted work of a certain number of scientific medical men has succeeded in freeing the