

who becomes discouraged as he ploddingly works over his case and still is unable to name malady, or grows careless through his effort to work as rapidly as his preceptor or his superior. But practice in this line brings improvement as it does to the pianist, who soon reads and plays at sight music that was at first entirely beyond his grasp.

Many diagnoses are made with positiveness. When technique is faultless, one may at times be able to pronounce a case tuberculous, or to declare the nature of a fragment of tumor, or the presence of fluid is proven by aspiration, or a fracture recognized by crepitus, etc. Yet, while the learned and trained physician is the most positive in his diagnosis when he is sure of his ground, no one is more cautious and guarded when positive signs are lacking, and no one more candid in saying, "I do not know." It takes some men many years before they attain that mental attitude commanding the wide horizon, and giving them the clear vision so that they can look about and declare openly, "I do not know." Some men never reach this high plane; others lack the courage to confess what seems to be ignorance. But the intelligent layman, who has tried his physician and not found him wanting, is willing to accept this confession of limitation of human power; he recognizes the feebleness of human insight into the workings of Nature, and he waits patiently until the physician is ready to announce his decision. The physician who is honest in his diagnosis has nothing to retract; he is not obliged to "hedge."

The physician who has had impressed upon him early the importance of diagnosis, who realizes that diagnostic ability is not a gift, but an acquirement, and who gives his opinion not prematurely and guessingly, but conscientiously and after full deliberation, may not be brilliant, and may add little to the world's store of knowledge, but he goes about doing good; he commands the respect of his patients and his colleagues, and is free from the stings of conscience that come through mistakes committed through haste and carelessness.—*Indian Med. Record.*

Senile Pruritus.

In this condition—not at all infrequent, and very troublesome—the skin is usually dry and atrophic. Under such circumstances small doses of pilocarpine, one-twentieth of a grain two or three times daily, will be found beneficial. Very often nothing else will be required, sufficient comfort being afforded by this remedy alone. It is often well, however, to employ a liniment of a solution of menthol and salicylic acid in lanolin and olive oil, varying the proportions according to the demands of the case.—*The Clinical Review.*