

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

THERE can be but few, engaged in the active practice of medicine, who are not aware that a new and important chapter has been added to our knowledge of the mechanism of the heart beat during recent years. The newly-acquired information has been gathered by the employment of precise graphic methods. Those who are engaged in studying the heart and its defects by means of special instruments, are fully conscious of the burden which awaits the student or practitioner who has yet to bring himself abreast the times in this field of knowledge.

A question is often put to some of us. In what degree is an acquaintanceship with the new methods essential or expedient in the routine of busy practice ?