

*five per cent of cures, providing that it is not positively harmful.*

Even to-day it is one of the hardest but most necessary things to get clearly in mind that the triumphs, the "cures," achieved by any new remedy must be "loaded," as the calculators say, with this six-to-one standing handicap in its favor. It must not only be shown that seventy-eight per cent or ninety per cent of the patients who took a drug or other remedy got well, but that more of them recovered than of those who did not take it.

This progress of therapeutic house cleaning, of "*Transvaluation of Values*," as Nietzsche called it, is precisely what the medical profession to-day is engaged in carrying out and applying to every drug upon its shelves and upon the pages of its pharmacopœia. It is a huge undertaking, but we are looking forward to a magnificent clearance of ancient rubbish before we are through with it.

Some drugs of real value will survive; but their numbers will be counted by tens instead of by thousands, as at present. In fact, next after the fight against disease, the biggest struggle that the coming doctor has on his hands is with drugs and the deadly grip which they have upon the confidence and the affection both of the profession and of the public.

Another of the gravest difficulties of the drug problem is that the oldest, most highly prized, and most universally used drugs are unfortunately the most dangerous and poisonous. The "simple, old-fashioned, household remedies" that we hear so much vaunted,