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of the *modus operandi* comes later, and the correct explanation often much later still. Many of the subjects which I treated with dogmatism ten years ago have, in the interval, been subjected to fresher and fiercer lights which, in the future, may modify our present estimates, and may even change them beyond recognition. To write a medical book, however modest its aims, and to keep your hand conscientiously upon it, is to realize fully the first essential to the dignity and progress of medicine—namely, the ruthless cultivation of the open mind. To the contracting cerebral arteries of the seniors must be attributed the inadequate prestige of the profession in the body politic; it is with the juniors to redress the balance, by persisting in a divine discontent with present imperfections, and by pursuing with diligence the kind of heterodoxy which consists in a reasoned receptivity to new ideas. This is not to extol the excited welcome which I have too often seen extended to new therapeutic fashions. Those which are in my mind had no change in outlook to warrant them. It is experience alone which brings discrimination, but it is a safe rule which bids us receive with caution new methods which are not based upon fresh ideas. The substitution of a synthetic drug for a vegetable, in the treatment of a disease whose pathology is obscure, may succeed in the wholly laudable object of giving greater relief from symptoms, but we must not delude ourselves into believing that science