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MEDICAL STATISTICS  
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*The Fitzpatrick Lectures  
for the years 1941 and 1943, delivered at the  
Royal College of Physicians of London  
in February 1943*

BY

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*Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology and Vital Statistics  
in the University of London*

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*To*

SIR ROBERT HUTCHISON, BART., M.D., LL.D., D.Sc.  
PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS  
1939-42

AN OLD FRIEND AND GRATEFUL PUPIL  
AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATES  
THIS SMALL BOOK

*Est quadam prodire tenus, si non datur ultra*

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## PREFACE

As said on a later page, when my lectures were written it seemed improbable that the Royal College of Physicians would care to listen to the briefest summary of them; so I gladly accepted the hospitality of brother statisticians and evacuated the lectures into statistical territory.\*

The College, however, has resumed its normal activities and the editor of *Biometrika* has kindly permitted me to follow the practice of my predecessors and clothe the lectures in the form of a book; a small one, but still a book.

I have one, and only one, thing in common with the scholarly physicians who have lectured on Mrs Fitzpatrick's foundation. I have reached the time of life when looking backwards is more tempting than looking forwards and the sundial's warning:—'It is later than you think'—begins to have a personal significance. I look back with pleasure on the men whose works are slightly touched upon in these pages, my spiritual ancestors. They did not live very long ago; when the first of them was born the College of Physicians was more than a hundred years old. Their very names are unfamiliar to most physicians, their writings almost wholly unknown. I know I cannot make a ring of gold out of their little square, old, yellow books, only build a little cairn of stones in memory of them.

What of it? 'Tis a figure, a symbol, say;  
A thing's sign; now for the thing signified.

M. G.

\* These lectures were printed in *Biometrika* in three parts:  
Vol. 32, Part 2 (1941), pp. 101–127;  
Vol. 32, Parts 3 and 4 (1942), pp. 203–225;  
Vol. 33, Part 1 (1943), pp. 1–24.