

# Progress of Medical Science.

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## MEDICINE.

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IN CHARGE OF W. H. B. AIKINS, F. A. CLARKSON,  
BREFNEY O'REILLY AND F. C. HARRISON.

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### Bronchial Asthma as a Phenomenon of Anaphylaxis

Meltzer (*J. A. M. A.*) observes that it is generally agreed that the so-called nervous asthma is due to a stenosis of the bronchioli. It was discovered that the so-called anaphylactic shock is due also to a stenosis of the fine bronchi. The theory is offered that asthma is an anaphylactic phenomenon; that is, that asthmatics are individuals who are "sensitized" to a specific substance and the attack of asthma sets in whenever they are "intoxicated" by that substance. It has been proved that the anaphylactic attack is of peripheral and not of central origin. It is therefore suggested that the so-called nervous asthma is also due to a peripheral and not a central cause; in other words, "nervous" asthma is not a neurosis. On account of the capriciousness of the onset and courses of asthmatic attacks, as well as on account of the absence of pathological anatomical changes in this affection, asthma was considered a functional disease and hence a neurosis. He thinks that asthma is still a functional disease but not a neurosis.—*New York Medical Journal.*

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### The Treatment of Migraine

The following prescriptions are recommended by Rankin (*Clinical Journal*): (a) chloride of ammonium, 15 gr.; phenacetin, 10 gr.; codeine, 1-3 gr. (to be dispensed either in the form of a powder or of two cachets); (b) antipyrine, 10 gr.; salicylate of soda, 10 gr.; tincture of gelsemium, mxx.; spirits of chloroform, mxx.; water to one ounce; (c) heroin, 1-12 gr.; dilute hydrobromic acid mxxx; citrate of caffeine, 5 gr.; compound tincture of cardamom, mxx; chloroform water to one ounce. In the case of all of them directions should be given for a dose to be taken every two hours for three doses; and every four hours thereafter until the pain is relieved. In women when the migrainous attacks recur only at the menstrual times, the use, for a week before each period, of a mixture of chloral hydrate,