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SPORADIC CRETINISM IN ONTARIO.*

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No disease or deformity causes more distress to parents than the grave forms of cretinism. While the subjects of it are carefully and lovingly cared for they are also jealously shielded from the public gaze in the consciousness that a blight has fallen upon them. They may present a picture that is scarcely human; the mental condition is affected equally with the physical. However, of all the triumphs of medicine few equal and none surpass the brilliant results obtained in the treatment of cretinism. Had vivisection done nothing more for humanity than place in our hands the means to restore so many of these unfortunate creatures to vigor of mind and body, there would have been ample justification for all the sacrifice of animal life that has been made for the advancement of science.

The earlier the treatment is begun the better the prospect for a good recovery. It is important, therefore, that early diagnosis be made. The effects of the administration of thyroid are well illustrated in Dr. Stone's case (Case 5, Figs. 5 and 6). There is a loss of body weight due to disappearance of the myxœdematous deposit and of fat, the various parts of the body become more shapely, the belly and navel less prominent, the lips thinner and mouth less open, the tongue smaller and retracted into the mouth, there is great rapidity of growth, affecting especially the legs, so that the

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