

RATIO OF INCREASE OF HEIGHT TO INCREASE OF BULK IN THE CHILD.—Rev. Malling Hansen, Principal of the Danish Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, has recently, according to the *Lancet*, made some interesting observations on this question, in the case of one hundred and thirty children—seventy-two boys and fifty-eight girls. Weighed four times a day, in groups of twenty—in the morning, before dinner, after dinner, and at bed-time—for four years, this result was arrived at: that increase in weight and increase in height do not proceed uniformly throughout the year. The greatest increase in bulk extends from August until December; a period of equipoise from December until the middle of April; and the period of least increase extends to August. This, the period of minimum increase in bulk, is the period of maximum increase in height. In autumn the height is stationary, but the bulk increased. In spring and early summer the bulk remains about the same, but the height increases four times as fast as in September and October. Increase in height and increase in bulk are in inverse proportion. The same thing has been noticed in trees. *Science* quotes, in connection with these results, those of Dr. W. R. Miller, of the West Riding Convict Prison, obtained from four thousand prisoners during thirteen years, and differing somewhat from Mr. Hansen's. Dr. Miller found that in adults the maximum increase in weight occurs from April to August, and the minimum from September to March. The body becomes heavier in summer and lighter in winter. The reason is supposed to be the more active excretion of carbonic acid gas in the colder months.

PROGRESS IN PSYCHOLOGY.—A notable example of the remarkable development of separate branches of science is found in the case of psychology. As a science it is not over fifty years old, yet the field is already so broad that specialism is a necessity. In England, Germany, France, Italy, and the United States, there is increasing interest in the subject. M. Ribot, the celebrated author, holds that a psychologist is a naturalist, a