

first three days following confinement, as the nurse had the greatest trouble to keep the child away from the mother during that time.

Progress of Medical Science.

MEDICINE AND NEUROLOGY.

IN CHARGE OF

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THE ACTIVE CONSTITUENT OF THE THYROID GLAND.

Dr. Robert Hutchison, in the *British Medical Journal*, Jan. 23rd, 1897, gives the clinical evidence in support of his views that the colloid substance is the only part of the gland medicinally active. The proteids of the glands he finds are two in number, a nucleo-albumin and colloid matters; the latter contains phosphorus and iodine. The extractives resemble those of other organs. The specific action of the gland he claims is stimulation of general metabolism and increase in the oxidation processes in the body—clinically manifested by progressive loss of weight, slight rise of temperature and pulse, and increased excretion of urea and carbonic acid. In three cases of myx-œdema, tests of these constituents were made. The extractives were found to be inert, as well as the nucleo-albumin. Pure colloid matter which exists in the proportion of 1 gm. (dry) in 10 gms. of fresh thyroid he finds is the active constituent. It is made up of two parts—a proteid and a non-proteid. The former had the action of the colloid in a lesser degree, while the latter is active in minute doses. Hence he concludes that the colloid matter is the active portion of the glands, and exists in all the preparations found to be effective, and that it should be prescribed in preference to the gland as a whole. The advantages are constancy in dose, purity of the remedy, the freedom from taste and odor, smallness of dose, rapidity of absorption, and is more economical.

THE MARAGLIANO SERUM.

Statistics have placed it beyond doubt that as many as one million cases of diphtheria have already been cured by the Behring serum, and there is ground for believing