

PEDIATRICS.

IN CHARGE OF ALLEN BAINES, W. J. GREIG, AND W. B. THISTLE.

Dysarthria and Delay in Learning to Speak following Cerebral Disturbance in Infancy.

A paper on this subject was read before the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London by Dr. F. Parker Weber. The child upon whose case Dr. Weber based his paper, was of healthy parentage and was now seven years old. Until two years of age he was quite well and learning to talk like other children. At this time he was attacked by some acute disease, with cerebral symptoms. The illness left him unable to speak, but unaffected in any other way. When seen at five years of age he was able to utter peculiar sounds, doubtless an attempt at articulate language. He was physically fairly well developed, could hear well, understand what was said to him, and appeared to be of average intelligence. He then gradually began to speak, though with obvious difficulty in getting the sounds out and with great defects in pronunciation, dropping the consonants at the end of most words, and replacing the sounds of *k*, *g* (hard or soft), *ch*, and *s* by a *d*-sound or *t*-sound. Such "lalling"-like defects, together with stammering, rendered his speech most imperfect. He could recognize single figures and the letters of the alphabet, but could hardly recognize even short words when shown them on paper. He sometimes made mistakes when writing his own Christian name, although he had doubtless been repeatedly drilled at it. He could not recognize his name when shown it in printed characters. He seemed, in fact, almost word-blind. Such was his condition at the age of seven, when seen in January, 1899. The present case and similar cases differed from the typical ones of cerebral diplegia, with bulbar (pseudo-bulbar) symptoms, in the fact that the movements of the palate and the mechanism of swallowing were not in the least affected. A practical point in regard to the present case and similar cases was that the speech centres, although damaged by some early disease, seemed, nevertheless, capable of ultimate fairly normal development. This was confirmed in the present instance by the rapid progress which the boy was making since real trouble had been taken in teaching him by the oral and other methods.

Biliary Calculi in Children.

Three cases of biliary calculi in children were reported at the meeting of the London Pathological Society by Dr. G. T. Still (*British Med. Jour.*, April 8th, 1899). The cases had all been encountered within six months at Great Ormond Street