

✓ Progress of Medical Science.

✓ PEDIATRICS.

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

Ununited Fracture in Children.

Edmund Owen (*Brit. Med. Jour.*, August 19th, 1899), at the meeting of the Section of Diseases of Children, read a paper on the above subject. He puts two queries: 1. Why is non-union after fracture of the tibia and fibula in children of comparatively frequent occurrence? 2. Why does its treatment so often end in amputation? Mr. Owen refers to the frequency with which non-union occurs and the infrequency of the reported cases.

The first essay on the subject appeared in Sir James Paget's "Studies from Old Case Books," published in 1891. Mr. D'Arcy Power, in the 75th volume of "Medico-Chirurgical Transactions," gives a table of 72 cases of ununited fracture of the long bones of children, of which 45 occurred in the tibia and fibula. These writers and Dr. Packard, of Denver, in Keating's "Cyclo-pædia," assign the cause as neglect in treatment, or failure to recognize the fracture. The essayist answers this by the statement that he has known of a large number of cases which were recognized at once and treated properly, but which failed to unite. He ends his paper by asking if any operator present had ever established consolidation in the ununited tibia of a child. He himself confessed that all his efforts in that direction had ended in complete failure. He deprecated the habit of orthopedic surgeons stating that there was no danger in straightening the crooked legs of children.

Morbid Anatomy of Tuberculosis in Childhood.

Geo. F. Still (*Brit. Med. Jour.*, August 19th, 1899), in the Section of Diseases of Children at the British Medical Association meeting, read a paper on the above subject. The material for the paper was based on his experience as Pathologist to the Great Ormond Street Hospital, where, out of 769 consecutive necropsies on children under 12 years, 269 were tuberculous.

Age Incidence.—56.5 per cent. occurred under the age of 3 years, and 43.5 per cent. under the age of 2 years.

Mode of Infection.—After a discussion of the milk infection question (especially in view of the report on tuberculosis by the Council of the British Medical Association in January, 1899) he concludes that infection occurs much more frequently