

# Progress of Medical Science.

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## MEDICINE AND NEUROLOGY.

IN CHARGE OF

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### RICKETS—THE TREATMENT OF.

For patients in the first few years of life, from 1½ to 5 years, my plan of campaign is practically the same for all. For those with heavy bodies and heads, protuberant bellies, head sweats, and commencing or acquired bow-legs or knock-knees, the food supply is carefully attended to, the digestive functions restored as soon as possible, starchy food being limited, fats being recommended, especially bacon fat and dripping, which I believe has for these cases a high nutritive value. For very young children especially the addition of some cream to the dietary is most valuable. Condensed milk, if it be taken, should be replaced by cow's milk boiled, and a weak gravy soup or broth will often help to stop the rickety tendency. For marasmic patients nothing acts so well as a daily rubbing under each axilla of cod liver oil. For all these rachitic patients, then, varying the dose slightly according to age, I prescribed cod liver oil and syrup of the phosphates of iron. In very hot weather I let the children leave off the oil, but the mixture generally is very well taken, and the results are most satisfactory. In cases with any tuberculous or syphilitic history, the syrup of the iodide of iron should be substituted for that of the phosphates. Next as to the treatment of the rickety deformities, especially of the leg bones. In the case of patients under the age of 4 years, even with very marked bowed and bent tibiae, and some degree of knock-knee, I can assure the parents with great confidence that after nine months' to fifteen months' treatment these deformities will be very greatly improved or altogether remedied. I am prepared to leave any question of operation to a later age—say that of 5 or 6 years. By that time we can see whether ordinary treatment has been able to effect anything, the bones have got harder, and there is less risk of producing the calamitous condition of pseudarthrosis. These children's legs should be put up in