

# Progress of Medical Science.

## MEDICINE.

IN CHARGE OF W. H. B. AIKINS, H. J. HAMILTON,\* C. J. COPP,  
F. A. CLARKSON AND BREFNEY O'REILLY.

### Minor Signs of Thyroid Insufficiency.

In an article in the *Gazette Des Hopitaux*, Leopold Levi and Henry de Rothchild discuss the minor signs of thyroid insufficiency, pointing out that it is as necessary to endeavor to diagnose the lighter degrees of the malady as to recognize the complete forms. These milder forms they have named paroxysmal hypothyrea and hypothyrea minima. For more than two years they have been working on this subject, and have seen the benefit of the treatment in more than four hundred cases. They state that Hertoghe has preceded them in this view, and further say they will have occasion to recall important ideas made clear by their learned *confrere* of Antwerp.

*The Minor Permanent Signs.*—It is necessary to know, first of all, that all the signs which will be discussed are not necessarily found in the one individual. Inversely one must be careful as to the making of a diagnosis on a single sign. The combination only of a great number of minor signs will allow one to suspect or to justify a diagnosis of thyroid insufficiency. The proof of treatment confirming these suspicions will render a diagnosis easier. The following signs are to be relied on:

*Transitory Edemas.*—In the absence of all albuminuria hypothyrea is made manifest by white sluggish edemas of firm enough consistence, which are situated at the level of the eyelids in the frontal and malar regions. Occasionally there is a passing puffiness of the feet, the patient complaining that his boots cramp him, or that the fingers are so swollen that he is scarcely able to remove his ring. These edemas repeat themselves more or less often, may or may not be periodical. Side by side with edemas of the skin may be placed swelling of the vocal cords, oftentimes coming on at the menstrual periods and explaining the huskiness of the voice. Obstruction of the nasal fossæ is another noteworthy sign.

We have here some signs which by their repetition acquire some value as an aid to diagnosis:

*The Sign of the Eyebrow.*—Coincident with the edema of