PROGRESS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

MEDICINE.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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The Cardiac Dulness in Cases of Cancer.—W. GORDON finds that in cases of cancer, particularly where the alimentary canal is involved, there is a remarkable diminution and often a complete obliteration of the area of cardiac dulness when the patient is in the recumbent posture. The possibility of emphysema was always excluded. The writer has observed it in a large number of cases, but gives notes of only 6 to illustrate the sign. He became so convinced of the value of the sign that he risked the diagnosis of cancer on the strength of it, where, otherwise, the evidence was inconclusive, and in 5 consecutive cases the diagnosis proved correct. In non-cancerous cases without emphysema he has failed to find it with three exceptions. It does not occur in sarcoma. Gordon states that all one can claim for it is that when present in a doubtful case it is highly suggestive of the presence of cancer, and when absent at a late point in the case its absence is somewhat suggestive of the absence of cancer.

The writer at first thought that the diminished cardiac dulness was due to diminution in the size of the heart commensurate with the general wasting, but the autopsy findings did not bear this view out. He is inclined to believe that the true explanation is a lessening of the elasticity of the lung tissue, comparable to the loss of elasticity of the skin of the abdomen in cases of visceral carcinoma. This loss of lung elasticity causes a sort of false emphysema, in consequence of which the edges of the lungs gradually close over the front of the heart.—*Proceedings of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society*, March 5, 1904.

On the Albuminuria of Puberty.—LOMMELE (*Deutsch. Arch. f. klin. Med.*, Band lxxviii., Heft 5 and 6, p. 541) contributes some interesting observations upon the urine of 587 young employes in the factories of Zeiss and Schott in Jena. The patients were between the fourteenth and eighteenth years. The majority of these patients were under observation from three to four years, the ages being from fourteen to eighteen