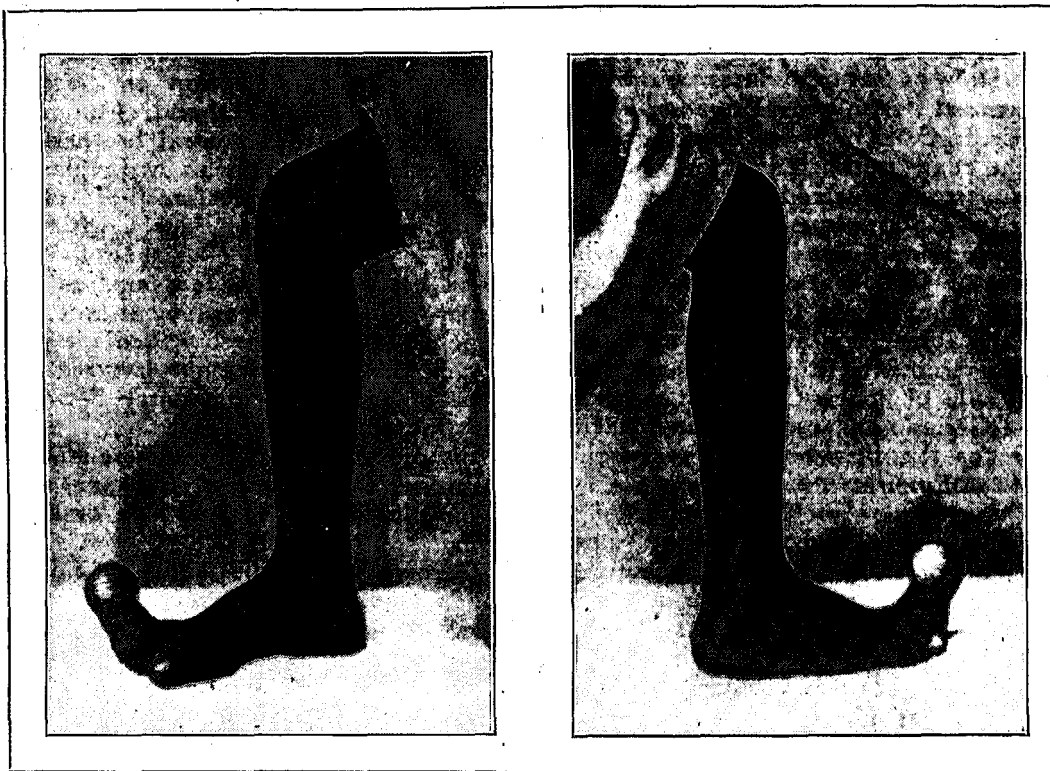


IN AN INDIAN HOSPITAL WARD.

MACRODACTYLY.

I give below an interesting case of Macroductyly, accompanied by a photo of the same for your valuable journal, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and feel sure it will interest some of its readers. As this disease is not common, I give a description taken from "Manual of Surgery," by Rose and Carless, pp. 444-445. Macroductyly consists in a congenital overgrowth of one or more fingers or toes. The structures are perfectly normal in character,

The toe, on examining it, was to all intents and purposes normal, except for its enormous size. It was 5 in. long, and measured $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. in circumference at the tip, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. around the middle and base. It in no way inconvenienced the child, as it pointed upwards and backwards, the first phalanx being extended on its metacarpal and the second phalanx on the first. The child, of course, was of the poor classes, and therefore used to run about barefooted, but were it rich and able to afford boots, I shudder to think of the queer and unsightly clodhopper it would want in the



CASE OF MACRODUCTYLY (aged 5 years).

CASE OF MACRODUCTYLY (aged 5 years).

and merely gigantic in size for the age of the individual. Amputation or excision may be needed in these cases, as the deformed parts grow out of all proportion to the neighbouring tissues. Thus an infant with enormous overgrowth of the second toe of the right foot was successfully treated by excision of the digit, together with a V-shaped portion of the foot, which was by this means reduced to normal shape and size.

H—, a little Indian boy, aged five years, was admitted into the children's ward of a general hospital on March 8th, 1918, with a gigantic second toe of the right foot.

shape of a boot. The nail of our macroductyl measured 2 in. in breadth, by $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. in length.

The toe was removed by the surgeon under chloroform with a V-shaped portion of the foot, which was thus reduced to normal shape and size. This case was one of Macroductyly, a congenital condition fortunately not very common, in which one or more fingers or toes shows an overgrowth, and which as the child grows up, grows absolutely out of all proportion to the others.

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