

cardiac improvement, indicates severe nephritis and an unfavorable prognosis.

#### *Myocardial Insufficiency.*

Marked renal insufficiency may result from pure chronic passive congestion. Very exceptionally, clinically and experimentally, the functional studies reveal a decrease in function equaling that seen in the most severe grades of nephritis. Since the congestion for this must be of a most extreme grade, death is imminent on account of the heart. As a rule in myocardial insufficiency, with a symptomatic and urinary picture identical with that seen in a moderately advanced nephritis alone, or in nephritis associated with a cardiac break, renal function as indicated by both excretory and retention tests is surprisingly good. When low renal function is followed by an increased phthalein output, the amount of increase gives a fair approximation of the extent of cardiac improvement.

#### *Polycystic Kidneys.*

All conditions of renal function may be here encountered, and a prognosis can be based upon functional findings in this condition, just as in chronic interstitial nephritis. A case has been reported exhibiting a normal function, death resulting from an intercurrent disease, while a zero phthalein was found by Pepper and Austin in a case dying in uremia. A case now under observation, the diagnosis being confirmed by collargol skiagram, has a fair function only, 20 per cent. phthalein for two hours.

#### *Surgical Cases.*

Uremia, after operation, has been responsible for a large proportion of the mortality in renal surgical cases, so that any method capable of furnishing information as to the probability of the occurrence of such a condition is of great importance to the surgeon.

Emphasis upon one point is needed, viz., a *fair or a normal renal function must not be interpreted as meaning that uremia or anuria will absolutely not develop after operation*, or as meaning that the post-operative function will be the same as that before surgical interference. Many accidents may occur. The subject of a perfectly normal function may, after operation, develop anuria and die, although other things being equal, he is much less apt to do so than