

## Retrospect Department.

### QUARTERLY RETROSPECT OF SURGERY.

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*Tuberculosis of the Bladder.*—This affection is by no means so rare as is supposed, and is one of the frequent causes of these obscure diseases of the bladder which do not yield to ordinary treatment. Of course the difficulty of diagnosis is often great, and other organs, as the kidney, are frequently involved, and thus the ailment in the bladder is masked. Of late years this disease has attracted much attention, and Guyon of Paris has successfully treated this affection by cystotomy and cauterization of the tubercular ulcer.

In the *N. Y. Medical Record* for May 3rd, 1890, is an interesting paper by Dr. Alex. W. Stein on "*Tuberculosis of the Bladder.*" He states that this affection is more frequent in the male than the female. According to Erns only one case out of twenty-five occurred in a female. The immunity of the bladder in the female is due no doubt to the more perfect separation of the reproductive and urinary organs. In the male the disease usually extends by continuity from the reproductive to the urinary organs. All ages are affected, but is more often seen in middle life. There is much difference of opinion as to whether the bladder is primarily or secondarily involved. Dr. Stein says that he believes micro-organisms can extend to the bladder from the prostate or kidney, but he is sceptical about these organisms extending higher—that is, from the bladder to the kidney. Socin reports cases of tuberculosis of the urethra and prostate lasting for years without involving the bladder.

Dr. Stein says the diagnosis of tubercular disease is often made with extreme difficulty; if there is no obstructive disease of the urinary outlet, no renal derangement or other exciting cause for the vesical irritability or hæmaturia, and other organs are affected with tubercle (the lungs, testes, etc.), then there is strong presumptive evidence that we have a case of tubercular