

But there still remains a large class of cases occurring in male patients of all ages, and often where no lesion of any organ can be discovered, even by post-mortem examination, in which instrumental or operative interference within the urethra is followed by the train of symptoms to which has been given the names urethral fever, urine fever, catheter fever, etc. These symptoms occur in one of four different forms.

(1) Shock, collapse and death within a few hours after operation (9 to 24), with or without chill or fever, and with partial or complete suppression of urine.

(2) A severe chill with high fever occurring a few hours after operation, and usually following the first act of miccurition. Profuse sweating and prostration follow, but the whole disturbance lasts only from a few hours to two or three days.

(3) Recurrent chills and high fever coming on at irregular intervals and lasting perhaps for weeks or months.

(4) A moderate fever with slight chills or chilly feelings accompanied with great depression, low muttering delirium or semi-coma, dry, cracked tongue and anorexia, and usually ending fatally. Such cases occur only in old men with enlarged prostates, and in whom, as a general rule, attempts at catheterization with solid instruments have resulted in the formation of false passages just in front of the prostate and on the floor of the urethra. This form differs materially from the preceding ones, but clinical experience points strongly to its being identical in its origin.

The second and third classes of cases generally recover completely and satisfactorily. Although this subject has occupied the attention of some of the leading surgical minds of this century, especially in France, Germany and England, its pathogenesis has never been satisfactorily explained. Three distinct theories have been advanced as to its origin.

(1) That it is a septic process.

(2) That it is due in some obscure way to reflex nervous phenomena.

(3) That it is due to uræmia.

In December, 1883, Sir Andrew Clark, in an able and