

accustomed to call uræmic; notably urea, which is certainly very constantly associated with the vomiting and diarrhoea of nephritics.

Dr. Herter gives a very striking comparison between the symptoms of human obstructive uræmia and those of the experimental uræmia in dogs induced by double nephrectomy or ligation of the ureters. The similarity is almost complete, and proves not only that the pathological basis of this form of uræmia is the same in both cases, but also that the condition in the human being may be elucidated by further experiments on animals. In the dyspnœic type of uræmia, associated with cardio-vascular changes, the conditions present offer many more difficulties to the investigator, for in addition to an undoubted toxæmia there are mechanical factors at work, and it is as yet impossible to estimate the part that these different agencies play in the development of the uræmic symptom-complex.

In still other cases infection complicates the question by the introduction of bacterial toxins.

Dr. Herter, moreover, makes a strong plea for the extension of the term uræmia "to every case of renal insufficiency for urea, although well-defined uræmic symptoms be wanting."

Among the points of special interest to practitioners may be mentioned the statement that the customary estimation of the urea of the urine is an unnecessary and useless procedure, the reduction in the total solids being sufficiently indicated by the volume and specific gravity of the urine. The urea estimation of the blood on the other hand affords very important indications of renal competency or incompetency and should be adopted in clinical investigations. For this purpose only a few cubic centimeters of blood are required.

In this connection also may be noted the fact referred to in the paper, that renal insufficiency for urea is a characteristic of fatal pneumonia, a statement fully borne out by the statistics of the post-mortem room.

It is to be regretted that, for fear of wearying his audience, Dr. Herter did not carry out his first intention of including some remarks on the treatment of uræmic states. We feel sure that his hearers would willingly have listened to any corollaries of his very interesting experimental studies, and the hope may be expressed that on some future occasion we may have the pleasure of hearing Dr. Herter's views on this subject.

---

### THE SMOKE NUISANCE.

It is a disgrace to Montreal that the by-laws of the city, with regard to smoke and smoke prevention, remain to all intents and purposes a dead letter. Small offenders, whose kitchen chimneys it may be have