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SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE SURGICAL TREATMENT OF CHRONIC AND ACUTE NEPHRITIS.

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Operative measures have been adopted by a large number of surgeons in the treatment of chronic Bright's disease during the past two years, and in a limited number of instances relief from acute nephritis too has been attempted by surgical means. A determined effort has been made to test the efficacy or otherwise of surgical intervention, more particularly in the chronic forms of nephritis. There is by no means unanimity of opinion among the members of the medical profession regarding this question, and some would challenge the proposition that there is any significance in the results which have been obtained by operation in those cases which have been recorded. It would appear, however, that in the light of recent clinical experience some very obvious conclusions may be arrived at, and incidentally it may be remarked we have made considerable advance in the surgery of the kidney as the direct outcome of the proposition to treat chronic Bright's disease by surgical means.

A considerable amount of investigation too has been carried on in the laboratory, and a marked stimulus has been given to experimental work not only in determining the results produced by removal of the kidney capsule and by other means of surgical interference which have been suggested, but also in a renewed effort to elucidate the vexed problem of the excretory function of the kidney in health and disease. It must be frankly acknowledged by those who have had any experience in this new method of treatment that we are still in the dark when we attempt to explain the results of our operative interference. It must with equal frankness be admitted that a most profound effect is produced upon the course of the disease and the general health of

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