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THE BORDERLAND OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY IN DISEASES OF THE KIDNEYS, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO LITHIASIS, TUBERCU- LOSIS AND TUMORS*

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In the management of renal diseases, as with those of other organs, there are some which by common consent and practice fall to the physician, others to the surgeon, while in the case of many the best results are to be obtained only by the co-operation of both, the work of one in diagnosis and treatment being complementary to that of the other. Belonging to the province of the physician may be mentioned the various forms of Bright's disease. This may be granted notwithstanding the enthusiasm with which many a few years ago regarded Reginald Harrison's capsule-splitting operation in conditions of renal tension and Edebohl's more questionable operation of decapsulization in cases of subchronic and chronic nephritis. Although at that time these procedures appeared to some to indicate another successful invasion by the surgeon of the special domain of the internist, it is now generally conceded that the early hopes entertained of the value of these operations have not been realized, and that except in a very limited field, little reliance is to be placed on their efficacy. While in medicine we must always be prepared to readjust our opinions to accord with newly discovered facts, it was difficult for the physician and pathologist to understand the *rationale* of decapsulization for the relief of a systemic condition

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