

etc., and died in a very short time. There was no sign of a convulsion from beginning to end, and from the beginning of threatening symptoms until death (about 12 hours) there were about 7 oz. of urine secreted. She admitted having taken oil of juniper on one occasion to procure abortion. Had given birth to a healthy child 3 years before.

A *P. M. Examination* was made by Dr. Teskey, and the following conditions found: The heart weighed 11 oz., and the valves were healthy.

Lungs, œdematous and congested.

Liver (4 lbs, 8½ oz.) congested, edges thickened, and a tendency to fatty degeneration.

Spleen (16½ oz.) congested, soft and friable.

Uterus (8½ oz.)—no signs of peritoneal or cellular inflammation around uterus. Ovaries and corpus luteum normal. The os uteri was scarcely dilated, but slightly ecchymosed on its inner surface. A few small clots were found on the inner surface of the body of the uterus.

Kidneys,—capsules adherent in places, tissues markedly congested, light and dark streaks running from the centre peripherally. A small abscess was found in the right kidney near the pelvis.

The *cranium*. Vessels of dura mater congested, and a milky appearance of the pia mater at the upper part, the whole brain presented a "wet" appearance.

Considerable serum was found in the subarachnoid space, especially at the base, and also in the lateral ventricles, of which the lining membrane was opaque. The choroid plexuses were much congested. No emboli could be found in the cerebral vessels.

A microscopical examination of the kidneys was also made by Dr. Teskey.

Pathological changes were most marked in the cells of the convoluted tubules. These were found enlarged, angular, and mostly separated from the walls so that many had fallen out in the process of mounting, leaving the tubules naked. The cell contents were markedly granular, the nuclei not readily seen, and the lumen of the tubes small, irregular, and choked by broken epithelial cells in many places, especially near the boundary area. The glomeruli were somewhat enlarged and hypernucleated with thickening of Bowman's capsule. The inter-tubular tissue was also increased in thickness and nucleation. No marked changes were found in the tubules of the pyramids.

THE NEW LOCAL ANÆSTHETIC, HYDROCHLORATE OF COCAINE—EXPERIMENTS WITH CAFFEINE.

BY R. A. REEVE, B.A., M.D.

Senior Ophthalmic and Aural Surgeon, Toronto General Hospital—President, Toronto Medical Society, etc.

It is not surprising that the virtues of a drug which is at once absolutely non-irritant and equally anæsthetic to the urethra and conjunctiva, the cornea and drum-head, and the mucous membranes of the larynx, naso-pharynx, vagina, etc., should be promptly and widely tested and heralded. The various indications it fulfils will be so apparent as hardly to need specifying. The following cases illustrate in part its potency, and one is cited, not without interest, in which it proved useless. The solution used was of four per cent. strength, the two per cent. having been found too weak, as a rule, for operations upon the eye.

CASE 1.—J. A. Toronto General Hospital, Iridectomy, Nov. 11th. Four applications in fifteen minutes; operation begun five minutes after the last; no pain,—“just felt the doctor was doing something.”

CASE 2.—J. T. T. Sclerotomy for secondary glaucoma,—drug useless. Six instillations (of several drops) in twenty-five minutes; operation attempted five minutes later, but patient not tolerating the use of knife or forceps, chloroform had to be used. The patient was a very nervous subject, and there was possibly idiosyncrasy in addition to evident hyperæsthesia.

CASE 3.—Mrs. McC. *Operation for secondary cataract*: solution applied three times in ten minutes; discission ten minutes later. The patient, a nervous lady, said she “felt not a bit of pain.”

CASE 4.—Mrs. T. *Mucocèle; Bowman's operation*: three applications on punctum and inwards; canaliculus slit as far as caruncle without pain, and into sac with but little; pupil moderately dilated, but contracting to light and on accommodation.

CASE 5.—Mrs. M. *Iridectomy for inflammatory glaucoma*: five instillations upon upper margin of cornea in fifteen minutes; five minutes later, section at sclero-corneal junction not felt; solution dropped upon wound holding knuckle of iris; two or three minutes later segment of iris excised. The patient, a delicate nervous lady, said “she only felt the operation a little.”