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Original Contributions.

THE OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC BRIGHT'S DISEASE.*

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THE attention of the profession has recently been directed to the fact that albuminuria as a symptom of renal disease may completely disappear after certain operations upon the kidney. It is now suggested that chronic Bright's disease may be so cured. Occasionally a patient presents himself with symptoms indicating the presence of a renal calculus, and an operation is undertaken for his relief. The operator may fail to detect the presence of a stone, but in spite of that fact the symptoms may be relieved by the operation. In these cases the albuminuria, which had previously existed, may completely disappear and the other symptoms of renal disturbance may also be relieved, so that a complete and permanent cure is effected. This train of events has been recognized as possible for some years, but the significance of them and the bearing they might have upon the cure of nephritis by operative procedure have but recently been fully realized.

It was with the object of relieving grave symptoms in a case of chronic Bright's disease that I undertook recently to operate upon the kidneys. A child ten years of age suffered from nephritis. The history is obscure as to the onset of his illness, but for six months before he came under my care he had general anasarca and ascites. During that time paracentesis abdominis had been performed seven times. On admission to the hospital on November 8th,

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