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## Original Communications.

### NOTES ON THE PROTEIDS OF THE URINE.

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By the term albuminuria, when unqualified, is by most modern writers meant the true or intrinsic albuminuria, *i.e.*, urine containing substances coagulable by heat and acids which have been excreted with it, and does not include hæmoglobinuria. Although authorities are almost unanimous in the opinion that the coagulable bodies found in urine are derived from the blood of the glomeruli, yet, as Senator points out, there are many other possible sources within the substance of the kidneys, *e.g.*, the blood of the interstitial vessels, the lymph and various epithelial cells of the kidneys—all of which might yield albumen to the urine and are more or less affected in the processes which lead to albuminuria, such as congestion, inflammation, and renal degenerations.

It is customary to speak of the phenomenon of albuminuria as if it were due to the presence of one definite body, coagulable by heat and precipitated by certain reagents. For a long time this represented our entire knowledge of the proteids of the urine, and although more recent and careful study of the coagulable matter of the urine has demonstrated that this is not the case, yet, so far as the ordinary procedure in examination of urine goes, we still speak of albumen being present or absent according as a precipitate is or is not produced by the action of a reagent and wholly disregard the fact that most ordinary