influence of remedies has led me to discover. It is, that we possess remedies which, when administered remarkably increase the metamorphosis of tissue, and enable us to produce at will the very depurative effects, which I have pointed out to you as resulting normally in the course of certain zymotic diseases. In taking a practical view of the so-called diuretic agents, it will now become necessary to divide these into two classes: the one including those which simply increase the bulk of the urine; the other, those which act as renal alteratives, and aid the depuration of the blood.

To the former class belong all those agents which out of the body exert up chemical effect on animal matter, as all the vegetables diuretics-squill, copaiba, broom, juniper, guaiac, digitalis, &c. All these, in the absence of any opposing cause connected with mechanical obstructions to the free course of the circulation, will, it is well known, increase the discharge of fluid by the kidneys, and become often valuable agents in enabling us to successfully treat dropsical Hitherto no distinction has been drawn between these agents accomulations. and those which exert a chemical influence on organic matter: and hence two sets of agents exerting most different physiological effects were confounded. If the urine scoreted under the influence of the diuretics I have enumerated, be examined, the quantity of solids will never be found to much exceed the normal quantity ; nay, sometimes they will even be in smaller quantity than in health. in consequence of their in some instances acting as irritants to the kidneys, and by producing congestion, interferes with active secretion.

Remedies, then, which exert no chemical action on organic matter out of the body, appear to be incapable of augmenting the quantity of solids in the units, and hence are only of use in increasing the elimination of water; they may, and do act as renal hydragogues, but not as renal depurants.

We have next to notice those remedies among the reputed diurctics which exert the influence I have alluded to, and according to my own observation, increase the metamorphoses of tissue, and act as depurating agents : this class includes the alkalies, their carbonates and their salts, with such acids as in the animal economy are capable of being converted into carbonic acid, including the acetates, tartrates, citrates of suda and potass. These remedies all act alite, they all actively stimulate the excreting function of the kidneys, and increase the bulk of the urine ; but they do more, they actually increase the metamorphoses of tissue by, in all probability, a direct chemical action on the elements of worn-out and exhausted tissues, or other matter in the capillary laboratory of the body. It is well known that alkalies and their carbonates powerfully dissolit albumen out of the body, and even break it up into various secondary bodies. thus, digested with an alkali albumen yields leucine, protid, and eryturo-protid, bodies allied to gelatine, formic acid, and other compounds. In like manner casein is broken up into tyrocin, leucine, valerianic acid, and other elements From such change occurring in the body, and in the living body, and in the living organism itself, we find the chemical diurctics easily affecting important I will changes. This I have repeatedly confirmed by absolute experiment. A young lady is adduce but one, as it may be taken as an example of the rest. now, and has been for some time under my care, labouring, among other things, under a condition of the ornice of the urethra which prevents her passing water without the aid of a catheter, so as to admit of a very accurate examination of the quantity secreted in twenty-four hours. This, when no medicine was adminit tered, was thus collected and examined; and then three drachms of acetated