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## SURGICAL TREATMENT OF NEPHRITIS.\*

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THE surgical treatment of nephritis or Bright's disease was the title of a paper published by me on the 11th of March, 1899, in the journal of the American Medical Association. This is the first announcement that has ever appeared recommending a surgical treatment for Bright's disease. The date of this publication has been overlooked by Dr. G. M. Edebohls, in all his articles. Dr. Edebohls' first paper, entitled "Chronic Nephritis Affecting a Movable Kidney as an Indication for Nephropexy", appeared in the *Medical News*, New York, on the 22nd of April, 1899, one month and eleven days after my first article.

On the 10th of February, 1899, a symposium on nephritis was the program of the Chicago Academy of Medicine, and the surgical treatment was assigned to me. At this meeting I related two cases of interstitial nephritis symptomatically cured by decapsulation and multiple punctures. I removed a portion of the kidney in each case, which was pathologically reported on by Drs. Klebs and Zeit and they pronounced it interstitial nephritis. In these two instances no positive diagnosis was made before operating.

At that meeting I related several earlier cases, but inasmuch as I had not examined a section of kidney tissue microscopically in any of them, I thought it wise not to publish anything but the two cases in which that was done. Dr. R. B. Preble, while denouncing splitting of the capsule, etc., as dangerous and useless, terminated his remarks as follows: "While Dr. Ferguson's paper was interesting, still the bulk of the cases do not apply to nephritis at all (claiming that my diagnosis was in error), and the latter cases which were demonstrated to nephritis have not recovered from their nephritis, but have been relieved of a purely subjective symptoms." (*Journal A. M. A.*, March 11, 1899.) Time has proven him to be wrong.

*History.* In the *New York Medical Journal*, May 17, 1902, appeared an article from the pen of Guiteras, on the "Surgical Treat-

\*Read before the American Medical Association at New Orleans, May, 1903.