

importance from the greater attention it receives and from the very serious injury done to practically perfectly healthy individuals, by exaggerating its significance. Case after case is seen where healthy young men are refused appointments influencing their whole career owing to an imperfect recognition of the nature and significance of functional albuminuria. A very distinct type of functional albuminuria, and perhaps its most important variety, is that now known as postural or orthostatic albuminuria. This is a remarkable form of albuminuria in that the condition is only present so long as the upright posture is maintained. The postural variety is often very difficult of interpretation inasmuch as in some organic diseases of the kidney, both trivial and serious, the albuminuria may have distinct postural characteristics. Thus the mere fact that the albuminuria is of the postural type must not be accepted as conclusive evidence that it is of so-called functional origin.

Albuminuria frequently arises from a slight nephritis, often called transitory nephritis, liable to occur during the the course of a great number of acute infections and this transitory nephritis, as its name implies, is generally of but little clinical importance, and this type of case corresponds very closely with that formerly described under the term of febrile albuminuria.

Disturbance of the circulation in the kidney and more especially passive congestion on the one hand and infarction on the other may give rise to an intense albuminuria which may lead the unwary to diagnose the presence of grave and serious progressive lesions when these do not necessarily exist. Thus infarction is especially liable to be confounded with acute nephritis of a more or less severe type, yet the outlook in the two conditions is very different since infarction of the kidney is often the result of a simple infarct, which, although it may cause an intense albuminuria or even haematuria, or both, is not necessarily of serious prognostic significance.

Another form of albuminuria which gives rise to many errors of diagnosis is that in which the albuminuria is really dependent on contamination of the urine with pus or blood