

in a physician's family for three months previous to admission to the hospital, and was kept on milk diet whilst suitable therapeutic measures were adopted for his relief. The urine contained a large amount of albumin and casts, and his condition did not improve. On admission to the hospital he had general anasarca, the temperature was normal, his pulse was 80 per minute with high arterial tension, the heart was normal save an accentuated second sound. The urine contained 8 per cent. of albumin and there were numerous epithelial, hyaline, granular and blood casts; he passed 43 ounces of urine the first 24 hours in the hospital. Five days after admission, on December 16th, 1903, operation was undertaken; decapsulation of the two kidneys was performed at one sitting. The kidneys were markedly enlarged, each of them being nearly half as large again as the normal size. There did not appear to be any undue tension within the capsule; the surface was mottled and congested, and bled freely when the capsule, which stripped readily, was removed. The patient made a good recovery from the immediate effect of the operation.

After operation the oedema promptly disappeared. The immediate effect on the kidney function is indicated, if we compare the analysis of the urine two days previous to operation with that recorded three days subsequently. We find that the amount of urine voided was doubled, the specific gravity remaining unchanged. The percentage amount of albumin was reduced from .84 to .28 per cent., whilst the total amount of albumin passed in 24 hours was reduced from 8.568 grammes to 5.686 grammes. The percentage amount of urea was unaltered, but the total amount in 24 hours was increased from 17.85 grammes before operation to 36.354 grammes at the period indicated after operation. There was remarkably little variation in the specific gravity of the urine. The chlorides, as calculated from the total chlorine, were not markedly affected as far as the total quantity excreted was concerned, thus 3.53 grammes of chlorine before operation and 3.06 after. The percentage quantity, however, fell from .34 before to .15 after operation. A much more remarkable result was observed in connection with the phosphates as measured by the amount of phosphoric acid. Thus, whilst the day before operation the amount of phosphoric acid was 2.736 grammes, the amount dropped suddenly to .965 grammes the day after operation, and then rapidly rose to 3.538 grammes on the second day, and 5.86 grammes on the third day after operation. This effect was a very evanescent one, as within a week the phosphates had returned to the amount excreted prior to operation. The significance of this remarkable drop and subsequent increase in the phosphates is not very apparent, but it is certainly worth recording.