

# Progress of Medical Science.

## MEDICINE AND NEUROLOGY.

IN CHARGE OF

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### THE CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF RENAL CASTS.

Dr. Geo. Barrie, Washington, discusses this subject in the *Medical Record*, January 23rd, 1897. He refers to the modification of our views as to the seriousness of this condition, owing to the frequency with which they are met with when looked for with the centrifuge in those apparently healthy. He examined the urine in fifty cases of apparently healthy persons confined in prison. Traces of albumin were found in 40 per cent., and casts mostly hyaline and granular were found in 26 per cent. In another group, when the persons were ailing and consulted him for some abnormal condition, but where no kidney affection had been suspected and no evidence of such existed other than the albumin and casts, he found the former in 20 per cent. of the cases, and the latter in 8 per cent., and by the centrifuge he has been able to discover casts in 15 per cent. of these cases. Prof. Shattuck, in 297 patients who sought his advice, not including fevers or cases where bile or sugar was present, found that at different ages the percentage in which albumin and casts were found ranged between 23 and 100, all the result of a single examination.

Dr. Landon Carter Gray has also reported cases of persistent albuminuria and glycosuria, with frequent hyaline casts in functional nervous diseases, but there was no nephritis, nor did the cases result in nephritis. Casts were found in half the cases (31) of neurasthenia, albumin in thirteen, and faint in fourteen; in five cases of melancholia, albumin was present in all, and casts in four; in three cases of insomnia, albumin in all, casts in two. In cases of neuralgia, neuritis, nymphomania, torticollis, tic douloureux, syphilis, alcoholic meningitis, general paresis and subacute mania, albumin and casts were found in the majority of cases. Dr. Barrie does not agree with Brewer, that the presence of casts always means a damaged constitution, as in these cases all the functions of the kidneys are performed normally,