

of the bladder due to its congested condition. This congestion may not be limited to the neck of the bladder, but may continue throughout the first portion of the urethra. With the exception of this part of the bladder, the rest of the viscus is comparatively insensitive, and the stimuli which excite micturition are believed to originate in this portion.

Marked frequency of urination in the early stages of the disease would therefore indicate the presence in the neck of the bladder of the projecting growth, and until such times as the whole of the lower mucous membrane becomes involved in the congestion so certain to follow in these cases, the increased frequency would be due entirely to this cause. As soon, however, as the congestion commences to spread wide in the mucous membrane, urination is instigated by the merest contact of the urine with the congested part, and the frequency may become so marked as to be almost incessant, and may represent a more or less continuous dribbling. The pain in these cases is extreme, and the suffering almost incessant.

In some instances a minute ulcer is present between the congested folds of mucous membrane, and its presence almost invariably causes the most intense suffering known to patients who are the victims of prostatic enlargement. This ulcer may be the means of exposing some nerve endings, and consequently as fast as the urine is secreted it finds its way to this part, the merest contact with which causes an intense desire to urinate. As there are only a few drops to be ejected this act becomes almost continuous, the pain and tenesmus on the completion of each urination, but a few minutes apart, being worse if possible than at its commencement. These are the cases which rapidly wear out the strength of the patient, and unless relief is early obtained, are liable to terminate fatally from pure exhaustion.

An unimportant factor in causing frequency of micturition is the fact that in many cases of prostatic enlargement, the actual quantity of urine secreted in the twenty-four hours is larger than usual, this increase being due to renal degeneration. This has, however, but a remote bearing on the causation of such frequency.

The belief in the common fallacy that urination occurs more frequently at night than during the day, is founded only on the fact that the risings at night are the more easily impressed upon the mind of the patient. So long as there is no difficulty in starting the stream, or no pain occasioned thereby, the act of micturition in the day-time passes unnoticed, but when one has to rise from his sleep for the same purpose there is a distinct tendency to impress the act upon his mind, and it is only the nocturnal urinations which he remembers. Careful inquiry will, however, usually elicit the fact that the daily urinations have been much more frequent than he really realized.