

The patient was placed upon a diet whose content in the features investigated was known. Over a period of six days the patient showed a nitrogen retention of 16 grams. The creatinin output was diminished. The ammonia output seemed within the limits of health and the magnesium metabolism was normal. The calcium metabolism, however, did not maintain an equilibrium, showing a loss of more than 8 grams.

It is known that calcium has some close relation to the functions of muscular activity, for it has been shown by Loeb that a condition of muscular spasm can be produced by the injection of agents which precipitate the body calcium in an insoluble form, and that this condition can be relieved by injection of calcium salts.

Removal of the parathyroids in dogs which produces tetany is associated with loss of calcium in the urine and feces and the tetany can be controlled by administration of calcium.

The diminished creatinin output and excessive calcium excretion in the case here recorded suggest that myasthenia gravis may be a disease of deranged muscle metabolism and indicates the use of calcium as a possible therapeutic agent. In the case under investigation calcium lactate was given and the patient has markedly improved in the course of a year and a half, but as some observers have noted remissions for long periods, and as strychnine has also been given, it is difficult to know what part of the improvement observed should be ascribed to the calcium.

It seems at least that this definite evidence of disturbed calcium metabolism may furnish a clue to treatment.—*Medical Chronicle*.

Primary Carcinoma of the Vermiform Appendix. NORRIS. *Univ. Penna. Med. Bull.*

After describing a case of primary carcinoma of the appendix in a woman aged 26, Dr. Norris states that carcinoma of the appendix is by no means so rare as has been supposed, and he suggests that, if all inflamed appendices were carefully examined, carcinoma would be found present in from 0.5 to 1 per cent. of the cases.

Diagnosis is practically impossible before operation. In some cases the symptoms are those of chronic appendicitis and in others the condition is only discovered during the course of operations undertaken for other reasons. Dr. Norris urges that the frequency of the condition is a strong argument in favor of the routine removal of the appendix in all cases in which the abdomen is opened.—*Medical Chronicle*.