

Only a partial *post-mortem* examination could be done, and for the following report of it and the marked conditions found I am indebted to Drs. G. A. Peters and J. Caven, by whom the examination was made.

Post-mortem Examination.—The inspection showed slight jaundice, marked bloating, well marked *rigor mortis*. Section showed—Abdomen: Omentum, peritoneum and intestines healthy; peritoneal glands enlarged slightly. spleen softer than normal; kidneys very large and congested, with multiple miliary, yellow foci, showing beneath the capsule as elevated points, and in the substance of the kidney as minute spots surrounded by a narrow zone of intense congestion. These foci were in some parts scattered and separated widely by kidney tissue, in others agglomerated, so as to present on careless inspection the appearance of rather large caseating patches. These agglomerations, when occurring immediately beneath the capsule in the cortex, formed prominent nodules in many places as large as an ordinary white bean. The capsule, when stripped, brought away portions of these nodules and points with it. Bladder contained a small quantity of purulent urine; uterus firmly contracted, no clots; liver softer than normal. Thorax: heart healthy; lungs, considerable œdema, otherwise normal; right pleural cavity contained a small quantity of serous fluid.

Microscopic Examination of Kidneys.—Stained sections of the kidneys presented the following appearances:

1. In certain of the sections the kidney tissue in greater part was normal, with the exception of a slightly granular appearance of the proper kidney cells. Here and there scattered through the sections were very small but dense infiltrations of leucocytes. In some cases the centres of these infiltrations were necrotic, in others not. Masses of micrococci were also found in the vessels or tubules in and around these minute abscesses.

2. In other sections the infiltration of leucocytes was not in patches, but diffuse, the whole of the interstitial tissue being crammed with them. The proper kidney cells, where recognizable, were swollen and the nuclei unstained. Micrococci were found here also.

These sections had the appearance of a commencing diffuse suppurative interstitial nephritis.

This report of the pathologists, in the light of the clinical history, clearly indicates a case of so-called spontaneous pyæmia, in which the brunt of the disease is borne by the kidneys. It is unusual that no foci, suppurative, or hemorrhagic, were to be found in any other organs, especially the liver and spleen. The absence of such foci is due, probably, to the kidney being in the periphery of circulation, the germs thus not gaining access to the general blood current. That the attack was general from the first, and not renal, with subsequent constitutional poisoning, is shown by the fact that it was not till about four days after the illness began that the urine showed the kidneys to be diseased. Had the micrococci fastened themselves on the valves of the heart, malignant endocarditis would have resulted. The kidneys became the seat of attack, probably because pregnancy had rendered them more vulnerable to the germs. The enormous quantities of gas in the stomach and bowels was doubtless derived from the blood being formed there by action of the sepsis. The coma was uræmic; the waste products in the blood were greatly increased, and, at the same time, the kidneys were eliminating much less than normal, hence the uræmia, which was the immediate cause of death.

The cause of the disease in this case is obscure, but the following facts offer a probable solution of the difficulty:—On the day Mrs. W. died, her brother consulted me; he had been unwell for several days. I found his temperature to be 103° , with headache and other symptoms of enteric fever which his illness proved to be, and from which he recovered in due time. On the 26th August, two days later, the youngest brother and sister were taken ill, and both had a typical, though mild attack of lobar pneumonia, the base of the right lung being affected in each case. A day later an older brother and sister were indisposed, with elevated temperature, headache, etc., from which they recovered in a few days. A servant boy took severe sore throat, for which he was sent to the hospital; he recovered in about ten days. The illness of so many persons in the same household simultaneously, pointed to a common source of poison-