

may even have serious forebodings for the future. Be this as it may, the fact remains that it is only the minority of patients so afflicted who present symptoms of so serious a nature as to compel them to apply for relief.

Of this very small minority who present symptoms from the commencement of the disease, some suffer from mechanical obstruction at the neck of the bladder due to the growth in the glandular substance, or in some cases it may be simply an alteration in the shape of the gland, but sufficient to cause swelling of the mucous membrane, and consequent hyperæsthesia resulting from the inflamed mucous membrane thus produced; and yet again others may be the victim of a combination of the former two conditions.

In all cases the first symptom to be observed by the patient is some change in the urinary function, usually an increased frequency of urination.

This frequency is present throughout the entire twenty-four hours, and the attention of the patient is first called to it by having to arise once or more during the night—a condition which heretofore, has been entirely foreign to him. Having thus had his attention drawn to this increased frequency at night, he soon discovers that the same condition holds good during the day; and if he is a comparatively young man, he will almost invariably seek advice from his medical adviser, but if he is somewhat advanced in years, he will usually accept it as a sign of advanced old age, and accept silently what appears to him as the inevitable, because the idea is very prevalent among the entire laity that such is the case in all old men.

*Frequency of Urination* may, therefore, be considered as the first definite symptom of prostatic hypertrophy, and may be present as the result of either one of three causes:

- 1 Because the mechanical irritation around the neck of the bladder produces a congestion of the mucous membrane, and by thus rendering the bladder much more sensitive to the presence of urine, demands more frequent emptying.
- 2 Prostatic hypertrophy is frequently the cause of changes in the quality of the urine, making it much more irritating, and the consequent increased demand for its expulsion.
- 3 It is a well-known fact that residual urine always lessens the capacity of the bladder, hence of necessity it must be more frequently emptied.

This increased frequency of micturition begins very early in the disease, usually before there is really any residual urine, and at this stage is consequently not due to this cause as is usually taught, but rather to the increased irritability of the mucous membrane at the neck