

of advancing years become manifest. Then those organic imitations commence which indicate its close analogy with the internal organs of generation in the female. The vascular elements first show signs of change with turgescence, congestion, interstitial inflammation. Next, we may have marked hypertrophy, with or without organic changes.

Neoplastic degeneration, with a backward encroachment on the bladder, the out-growth of a prostatic bar or the "third lobe," as it has been designated, central suppurative or cystic changes have been noted. The serious local or constitutional disturbances, which are encountered in prostatic disease, succeed chiefly in consequence of the mechanical impediment offered to the escape of the urine. The residual urine undergoes decomposition, becomes ammoniacal and irritating, inflaming the vesical mucous membrane, the infection in time spreading up by way of the uterus to the kidneys.

So far, in the late extensive literature on this subject, it does not appear that any writer has considered the influence of diathesis as an etiological factor. This is unfortunate, for anyone who has treated many of these well knows that in a considerable number of cases constitutional as well as local treatment effects most gratifying results.

Castration is well known to promptly induce atrophic changes in the prostate of lower animals, but whether it will do so in the old man whose testes are greatly diminished in functional activity, if this is not entirely suppressed, places another aspect on the question. No doubt but in the virile, whose prostatæ are simply intumescent or turgescient, without having undergone organic changes, the same result may be attained by much safer and more conservative measures, by keeping the rectum well cleared, aseptic catheterization, by the use of sedatives to the entire urinary tract, reduced or appropriate alimentation, etc. In the event of neoplastic formations, outgrowths or central, cystic or fibrogenous transmutation, the important question at issue is whether, even now, we may not by tentative expedients, judiciously and skilfully utilized, spare any patient the peril of sanguinous measures.