

When nature endeavours to replace what is normal to the organs as regenerative power is relatively weak in the higher animals, the results may be unsatisfactory. By altering the environment you get a benefit not only to the cells direct, but also from reflex influence; and it seems to me this last must not be left out in the explanation. So that if there be not a cause which is operating too strongly to counteract the effects of the possible good result from the change in the environment, it is likely there will be benefit; but, on the other hand there may be factors which lie far beyond, and no doubt are beyond the kidneys, and these will continue to operate on these organs under these new conditions, so that one would naturally expect a very great variety of results in such cases. Experiments on dogs in the laboratory cannot be more than suggestive, and the problem is one to be solved by experience. Surely the present is a bold movement, one worthy of some trial at least and a fair consideration, and I, for one, am very pleased to hear a subject like this discussed in such a cautious, scientific and thorough spirit.

DR. SHEPHERD: After congratulating Dr. Primrose on his excellent paper and expressing his appreciation, Dr. Shepherd said: "I do not think the case is yet proven, and the author himself also considers the question *en délibéré*. My experience extends to but one case and it was unilateral. The patient was referred to me by Dr. Lafleur and had been passing for some months a great deal of bloody urine with casts and albumin; stone was suspected, and Dr. Lockhart, having examined the bladder saw the blood coming from the right ureter and this proved, of course, that the right kidney was the one affected. I therefore exposed the right kidney, but failed to find any stone or anything abnormal, though there was some scarring on the surface. The capsule was incised and partially separated and the wound closed. From the day following the operation no more blood appeared, the albumin steadily diminished and casts were only occasionally seen. A year after the operation the patient was reported as being perfectly well, distinct benefit thus accruing from the operation. A great many surgeons advocate nephrotomy instead of decapsulation in these cases and often with good results. Dr. A. Ferguson, of Chicago, reports a great many cases of decapsulation performed with benefit to the patient, and he claims to have done this operation before Edebohls. Yet others have said that there were no good results following operation. Dr. Emil Reis reported a case of decapsulation followed by temporary improvement; later he had to remove the kidney for excessive hæmorrhage. There was a newly formed capsule around the kidney as thick as one's finger, and firmly attached all round; sections showed that the