

postural type. Further, in many cases of postural albuminuria in boyhood, although no symptoms of renal disease or of its symptoms can be elicited, a history of some acute infection, often not of a serious character, may be obtained, such as measles, mumps, tonsillitis or in not a small proportion of cases what is described as merely a severe cold quite apart from a more serious malady like scarlet fever which is so intimately associated with the production of renal disease. Acute affections are capable of giving rise to nephritis of all degrees of severity and many of them may also be complicated by slight attacks of pyelitis. In the latter, unless very careful examination of the urine is made, the fact that the albuminuria is due to contamination from small quantities of pus may be overlooked.

In the ordinary case of postural albuminuria in a boy or young adult, the practical diagnostic problem generally to be decided is whether the condition is dependent on so-called functional causes or whether it is due to a slight nephritis or whether it is the relict of a former attack of nephritis.

Although this question may be of some interest from a diagnostic point of view, it is not generally of great importance inasmuch as the outlook is generally favorable, although not equally so in all three instances. There is but little evidence that cases of postural albuminuria of functional origin can go on to serious renal disease, although it must be admitted that functional albuminuria may last sometimes for a number of years and even well on into middle life, but as far as I am aware there is no evidence to justify the wholesale refusal of these cases for life assurance or for commissions in the public services or other appointments in banks and mercantile houses, as is almost universally the case at the present time.

The diagnosis as to whether the postural albuminuria is of functional or of organic origin has usually to be made by a careful consideration of the history, especially of the occurrence of an acute infection and a careful examination of the heart and blood vessels including the retinal vessels to obtain any corroborative evidence of the presence of actual organic renal disease, the detection of casts in the urine is only of