

I believe it my duty to add a few clinical and experimental investigations. They concern above all the determination as to how far the elimination of the products of tissue metamorphosis in the contracted kidney is independent of the injection of water, if perchance it should be found that urea, uric acid and urinary salts are less freely and less perfectly excreted upon the small allowance of water than after flooding of the system with water, then that should serve as a warning, since we do not dare to favor the accumulation of these products in the body. In fact, the custom of prescribing for such patients milk and water and sending them to regular drink cures and renowned springs, has resulted from the notion that a large use of water favors the elimination of the products of tissue changes in every form of nephritis.

I have here to communicate as the entirely justified conclusion, that in the cases of patients with contracted kidneys, neither in the stage of relative euphoria nor in the stage of beginning cardiac weakness, nor indeed in chronic uremic phenomena, is the elimination of the most import, products of tissue metamorphosis, ever impaired through lessening of the liquids to one and one-quarter quarts daily. Not in a single observation was this the case, though in a few instances there was the contrary result, that is, the elimination of nitrogen and urinary salts increased with lessening of the fluids.

As concerns the excretion of albumin, the absolute daily amount was not essentially influenced through diminishing the allowance of water. The percentage of albumin increased only when, with a smaller injection of fluids, the amount of urine fell off, since in practice the proportion of albumin is exclusively and erroneously considered. It is important to know this fact, otherwise one might be led, through a lessening of the liquids, to the wrong opinion that the albumin had been greatly increased.