

as this is true. The predisposition exists, or rather the disease has commenced through the influence of the scarlet fever; and as that affection subsides, the renal disorder is disposed to subside—but the cold renews the congestion, and kindles into a blaze the smouldering fire. That this is the correct view is rendered highly probable by the occurrence of scarlatinal dropsy in children who are most carefully and prudently protected from the cold. Such a case occurred in the practice of Dr. Stephen Smith last winter. Not a breath of cold air had touched the body of this child. The rooms were large, and all the time kept at a temperature of 70°. During her convalescence from the exanthem, she had the range of these rooms, and never left them. Her clothing, also, was carefully looked to. Yet this child did not escape. Then, too, that there are other influences at work besides the cold would be inferred from the fact that the dropsy, when it occurs, has its time, occurring after an interval nearly as definite as the period of the eruption itself. Still, that cold and diminished exhalations from the skin have an active agency in producing both the acute and chronic forms of Bright's disease, can hardly be doubted.

As to diet, its influence is traced with more difficulty, and I have little to say about it. That the ingestion of an excess of albuminous food should be followed by albuminous urine is hardly a fact in point, for that sort of albuminuria is not Bright's disease. That certain other articles of food, vegetables, for example, should cause the urine to be albuminous for a few hours, has been, in some instances at least, explained by the further study of the cases. Bright's disease had already commenced, but the urine was not albuminous, except when the kidneys were excited by something which operated unkindly upon them. If any article of wholesome food has the power to cause chronic disorganization of the kidneys, I think it is yet to be demonstrated. If scanty and innutritious or unwholesome food produces Bright's disease, it is probably because of the unnatural condition of the blood which such food induces.

Regarding alcoholic drinks, it appears to me that their power to produce Bright's disease, in either of its forms, has been greatly overstated. There is a conviction in the minds of many physicians that this affection is a badge of intemperance. How wide this is of the truth may be partly seen from what has been already said. The opinion seems to have arisen from the fact that the renal disorder has been chiefly studied in hospitals, where a large proportion of the patients are found to have been intemperate, whatever may be their actual disease. I do not mean to deny that alcoholic drinks are among the causes of this affection. It is undoubtedly true that they have great power in exciting the kidneys to action, and these organs eliminate from the system certain of their constituents. It is probably true also that they disturb that "definite composition of the blood," which Poisenille found necessary to insure healthy secretion. It may be that they "impede the circulation" in the kidneys. It is certain that they are capable of much mischief, and that many hard drinkers have Bright's disease. But it is not true that any particular form of this disease depends on them alone. I would especially oppose the notion of Goodfellow, that the fibrous kidney is in any but the very loosest sense the "spirit kidney." He says (p. 190 and 192) of the fibrous and hobnail ("granular") kidney: "this alteration is very commonly seen in both these organs (kidney and liver) in old drunkards, especially and almost exclusively those who take the raw spirit, or spirit mixed with only a small quantity of water." He holds that the form of disease produced by beer, etc., is "a mixed kidney, something between the large white kidney which we see after scarlatina and the true granular (hobnail) kidney, with more or less fatty deposit both in the tubes and in the interstitial tissue." This distinction may be well founded in its application to kidneys in which disease is caused by spirits only, or by beer only. In this country none are habitually intemperate on beer alone; we have, therefore, no opportunity of verifying the latter statement. But if it is to be inferred that any form of Bright's disease