

desirable increase in adipose tissue, and a decrease in hemoglobin, especially when the individual has a predilection for the accumulation of fat or toward anemia. Three litres of milk contain more than 100 grams of albumin, from which more than 30 grams of urea will be formed, and still we are cautioned against an excess of proteid. Furthermore, I think the amount of phosphoric acid, which varies from three to four grams daily, is harmful to the kidneys. Von Noorden suggests that the phosphoric acid may be partially eliminated by the addition of lime water, which forms an insoluble phosphate, and this is eliminated by the bowels. The deficiency of iron can be made good by the administration of medicinal preparations, but still the large amount of water may be harmful. To many patients with contracted kidneys, and whose blood pressure is high, whose vessels show the well-known changes, and who are already cachectic, the drinking of so much milk is directly harmful, for the blood pressure is further increased, the hydremia is intensified, and the diseased heart still further endangered. Still further, the increased water acts as an unnecessary and undesirable irritant upon the kidney, and especially upon the glomeruli. For these reasons the amount of milk taken daily should be limited to from one to one and one-half litres daily, especially in contracted kidney, and in those cases of parenchymatous nephritis where the amount of urine is small and the anasarca great; in these the dropsy will be increased because the water will not be eliminated, but will accumulate in the subcutaneous tissue." While I do not agree with all the statements in this quotation, I believe that the argument against exclusive diet is well put. Pel concludes his argument in favor of a mixed diet, and on this point I certainly do not agree with him.

Passing on to the consideration of vegetable foods, we find the same differences among writers. Pel cautions us against those fruits and vegetables that contain benzoic acid, such as plums and green vegetables, but if anyone has shown that the small amount of benzoic acid found in the few plums that a patient would consume at a meal or in a day would be at all harmful, I am not aware of such a demonstration. Asparagus has been condemned, I suppose, because it imparts an odor to the urine. Certainly I know of no other reason for this interdiction. Certain vegetables have been condemned on account of their large potassium content, but as Pel states, it was formerly the custom to give saltpetre in doses of half an ounce per day without any evidence of harmful action on the kidneys.

The diet which I have found most serviceable in chronic ne-