

Levison first drew attention to this affection of the kidney, and was so convinced of its connection with gout that his explanation was at once accepted ; but it was shown by other observers that there was a reduction in the uric acid elimination in all cases of nephritis. We have now arrived at a point when a clearer hypothesis can be put forward by experimental proof in showing the analogy between this and the lead kidney.

It has been clearly demonstrated that the gouty kidney and the lead-poisoning kidney are both laboring to eliminate poisonous substances, and have morbid changes in common. For experiment, the poison of gout was selected from the alloxurine bases, which was the probable cause of the urate diathesis. Tandler injected 0.01 gramme of xanthine, which produced in animals changes in the kidneys, and which Prof. Paltauf and Dr. Albrecht declared to be identical with the lesion of the kidney familiar in gout. The alloxurine bases, therefore, appear to be the problematic poison that produces the renal lesion which bears a close relation to lead-poisoning in experimental demonstrations. Instead of the present uratic diathesis applied to the gouty condition, it would be more appropriate to call it the alloxurine diathesis.

The lecturer is of opinion that different authors have established names in accordance with the stage at which the gout was presented to them. Each one found a different quantity of uric acid, which he elucidated according to the theory he had most at heart. It is clear to the casual observer that the alloxurine bodies would vary according to the stage of disease, and constantly change the quantity of uric acid eliminated, which is the characteristic symptom of the disease. The proportion of uric acid would alter according to the base with which it combined. As long as the kidneys performed their function in a normal manner, they would produce more uric acid in proportion to the nucleïn reduced. In this we have an explanation of Neusser's perinuclear granulation kidney, which appears at one of the stages of the disease. After a certain point is reached, the kidney appears to become exhausted, the uric acid is reduced in the urine, while the decomposition of the nucleïn remains normal. At this stage, if the urine be carefully examined, it will exhibit the gouty acid character with increased alloxurine bases in the usual gouty symptoms. By the lesion of the kidney, the transudation of the poisonous basis reduces the elimination of uric acid. This *circulus vitiosus* still proceeds till the uric acid almost disappears, giving all the appearance of a shrunken kidney.

The development of the urate diathesis may also assume the following disposition :—Increased nucleïn decomposition in a congenital condition ; it is expressed in the appearance of perinuclear basophil granulations and increased elimination of alloxurine bodies:

In the beginning, the increased destruction of the nucleïn in the organism produces intermediate substances which assists to