

## CLINICAL LECTURE.

*On over-worked brain, and the nature of the phosphatic deposits in the urine in such cases.*—By E. A. PARKES, M.D., L.R.C.P., professor of Clinical Medicine, University College, &c., etc.

[Professor Parkes has been delivering a very practical course of weekly clinical lectures, on the various constituents of the urine, taken *seriatim* in health and disease, with the pathological bearings of the latter illustrated by cases in his wards. The following abstract of his Lecture last week contains some interesting points.—ED. CLINICAL SKETCHES.]

GENTLEMEN,—The indications of the urine furnished to us in disease are very remarkable; some of them are of very great importance in clinical research, and none, perhaps, more so than the indications afforded by the excretion of phosphorus and phosphates, chlorine and chlorides, from the system. We have already gone over the excretion of urea and uric acid, oxalic acid, &c; we now come to phosphorus.

In all ordinary febrile diseases, as we have had occasion to observe recently in this hospital, the curious fact has been made out, and now verified over and over again, that the chlorides disappear from the urine. Various arguments and explanations go to show that this absence or disappearance is an actual "retention" of the chlorides; thus in typhoid fever, in one case, we had an entire absence of chlorides; so it is also often in rheumatism. The immediate pathological cause of this is still unknown. An absolute want of chlorides or chlorine is perceptible in a most marked manner in pneumonia. This diminution advances or commences early with the period of hepatization, and goes on for days; we always look upon it as a favourable symptom, as it is sure to be, when the chlorides make their appearance again in the urine in such cases; the chlorides, in fact, are increased as the urea is increased, and this is tantamount to saying—as the normal physiological changes in the body supersede the diseased changes or actions set up by the pneumonia, or capillary bronchitis, for it is the same as regards this phenomenon in both diseases.

Now it is a curious fact, also, that there are two or three diseases of a rather striking character in themselves, and in these the chlorides are enormously increased. One of these diseases is ague—the chlorides increase during the cold fit, and go on to increase as well as the urea. The other disease is dropsy, with great diuresis. Here 500 or 600 grains of chlorides a-day (three times the normal amount; will be given off. The chlorides are all increased very much in the disease known under