

## URÆMIA.

Dr. F. R. BUCHAM, of Flint, Michigan, read a paper on "Uræmia." He took issue with the teaching of any authority, however celebrated, when such authority states directly, or by implication, that uræmia is an effect or sequel of albuminuria, as he was convinced, and indicated a course of investigation which demonstrated, he thought, that uræmia can exist, and does exist, independently of albuminuria, without the destruction of a single tubulus uriniferus; without a trace of albuminuria in the urine, and without any evidence of disease of the kidney whatever, and that consequently when the two conditions are found together they simply co-exist, and that a much greater number suffer from uræmia, who have neither morbus Brightii nor uræmic eclampsia, than are to be found who have either or both. He had made nearly 800 quantitative analyses for urea, and satisfied himself that it not only existed in Bright's and the eclampsia, but also in many of our every-day diseases, exerting its baneful influence where there was no disease of the kidneys whatever. The question naturally arises here, if it is the function of the kidneys to eliminate urea, and if these organs are healthy, why do they not perform their duty? Because, by the disease or disorder of some other organ or organs, solids in a state of league faction may be so much increased in the blood that the kidneys, in trying to eliminate them, are compelled, so to speak, to neglect a part of their ordinary duty. Consider the amount of sugar eliminated in diabetes, or bile in jaundice. Is it any wonder that urea should be allowed to accumulate, while the sometimes enormous quantities of sugar or bile are being excreted? It may be urged, however, that diabetes and jaundice are of rare occurrence. Granted; but is biliousness—jaundice in miniature—very uncommon? Take into account, also, the triple phosphates in overwrought nerve-centres, pus, etc., and is it wonderful that in performing so large a vicarious labor that the ordinary work of the kidneys should be imperfectly performed? Again, in dyspepsia, where nitrogenized food stoppeth short of complete metamorphosis, there is "destructive assimilation," and then the kidneys have to eliminate not only the urea generated by disorganization of tissue, but also that produced by imperfect digestion. How often do we hear "examine the urine for albumen," while

had a quantitative examination been made for urea, how many long learned ingenious theories as to diagnosis and etiology would have been unwritten? He preferred Thudichum's (Davy's?) method, made by accurate apparatus arranged by Flint, Jr. Would it be *a priori* considered strange that with a full, bounding, rapid pulse, increased temperature, skin dry, urine often very scanty, as is common in our fevers; would it be thought strange that uræmia in some degree should be present, and that the fever should be modified by its presence? He had no doubt that often the low muttering delirium of such fevers is due directly to that agent; and that many cases of so-called muscular rheumatism and neuralgia, ought properly to be designated uræmia, and he had on that theory treated and relieved both the last named maladies that had resisted appropriate remedies for rheumatism and neuralgia, prescribed by eminent physicians. He had also found many cases of epilepsy, and some forms of spinal disorders, due entirely to, or much aggravated by the same cause; and in that terrible disease, cerebro-spinal meningitis, of which we *know* little excepting its fatality, he believed it will yet be found that uræmia exerts a very marked influence, if it is not directly the cause.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Space and time, to say nothing of your patience, alike forbid my more than mentioning the titles of the other subjects and papers presented and discussed. Dr. E. Lloyd Howard, the noted insanity expert, of Baltimore, read a paper on "Emotional Insanity;" Dr. A. N. Talley, of Columbia, S. Carolina, on "The Relation of Psychology to Medicine;" Dr. E. W. Gray, of Bloomington, Ill., on "Physiology and its relation to the Practice of Medicine;" Dr. J. J. Caldwell, of Baltimore, on "Electricity as a Restorative Agent in Narcosis and Asphyxia;" Dr. Theo. Parvin, on "Uterine Hemorrhage;" and Dr. A. N. Bell, of Brooklyn, on "The Waste of Life;" to say nothing of the President's (Dr. Toner, of Washington,) address, and other papers full of suggestive topics.

SUGGESTION.—Since Pathological Science knows no boundary or nationality, why should not Canada become part and parcel of the *American Medical Association*? Our neighbors have cordially offered us recognition; let us make the further step and secure legitimate union, and thereby give a whole-