

to me, from a pathological point of view, practically impossible; but that one may obtain very definite benefit Dr. Primrose has shown to be a very reasonable hope. Cases of hæmaturia are often cured by the mere operation of cutting down upon the kidney, not even cutting into it, a fact which is quite a common experience with almost every surgeon, though whether such instances are of the nature of organic disease or mere angio-neurotic hæmaturia has not been settled.

DR. PERRIGO: One point, upon which I take issue, is that of convulsions during pregnancy, I should be disposed to leave the kidney alone and empty the uterus, probably dealing with the kidney afterwards.

DR. MILLS: I have been much interested in Dr. Primrose's well knit scientific paper. With regard to the question of the dog, I may say that for some time I was not aware that dogs could have chronic kidney disease, but I had sent to me by a former student a very well marked case as far as the kidneys were concerned, and the only cause I could learn for the disease was excessive feeding of meat. As to how frequent these cases are I am unable to say. I suppose it was very natural that tension should be considered a very important factor to be relieved in kidney disease, and from what has been said, I cannot doubt that this is true. I think more at a former period than recently did we associate function and the blood pressure *per se*; but the tendency now is, I think, to explain secretion in the kidney more on vital than mechanical principles, and to lay greater stress upon the quantity of blood going through the organ than on the blood pressure; but that here, as elsewhere, blood pressure is an important factor in a good circulation. So that while it is still, of course, quite true that blood pressure and tension generally are closely related to nutrition, still it would seem to me to be rather too narrow a view to explain all possible results, good or evil, from this operation. The capsules which surround organs are elastic and they are protective, and I have no doubt that dilatation would take place and other injury to various organs if it were not for these capsules. They are a part of the environment, so to speak, and if you interfere with this you not only alter tension but expose a part not usually exposed. There is, therefore, a new series of stimuli given—protoplasm exposed to an entirely different environment, and it is known that merely cutting down on organs is followed sometimes by marked changes. It is said that even exposing a portion of the brain sometimes leads to the same results as actual interference with the part. I have never put this actually to the test; but, as it has usually been said that there is no explanation for the changes referred to, and this explanation of altered environment, vague though it be, is better than none at all.