

supported in this view, however, by more recent observers. Oliver regards it as indicative of imperfect or perverted liver work, and Pancanowski has observed it in numerous cases of cancer of the liver not associated with coagulable albumen.

The methods of determining the different forms of albumen in urine are now reduced to such simple terms as to be within the power of physicians who have not received a special training in chemical manipulation; a systematic search for the various proteids in a case of albuminuria can be made by any one who is able to devote a few hours to acquiring the necessary manipulative skill. If such a course were pursued by those who have the opportunity, no little light might be thrown on many of the debated questions connected with albuminuria.

To every reader of modern medical literature no terms are more familiar than those of normal or physiological albuminuria, sometimes called cyclical, functional, alimentary or intermittent, according to the mode of onset or the time of occurrence of the symptoms in the cases reported. These terms imply the existence of an albuminuria in persons where general health is unimpaired, and who did not at the time of examination give any history or exhibit any symptoms to account for its presence.

Are we justified in assuming that albuminuria can occur without serious systemic disturbance or a coexistent lesion of the kidney? After carefully balancing the evidence for and against, I have elsewhere expressed the opinion that it may be regarded as an established fact that the urine in health may contain at times coagulable matter,—not that it can be shown to exist in every sample of urine, as we can demonstrate the presence of urea or phosphoric, but it has been found so frequently, by so many accurate observers, in the urine of perfectly healthy persons that we can no longer regard its presence in normal urine either as a rare exception or as a curiosity of no significance. Nevertheless, the doctrine that the presence of albumen is invariably a sign of disease is still strongly upheld by many writers, notably Dr. Geo. Johnston, but the continual accumulation of evidence from all sides has now forced many of the supporters of this view to admit that there are at least