

ent upon some such cause as obstruction to the venous circulation in the neck of the bladder. In still other cases the first attention of the patient may be drawn to the fact that a little urine is constantly coming away, when examination will reveal the pathology of the condition to be due to prostatic enlargement, and the constant dribbling merely an overflow. In these cases there is frequently no pain because there is no cystitis, and no cystitis because a catheter has never been used. The bladder on becoming fully distended and being unable to empty itself completely, finds relief only in proportion to the amount of urine entering by the ureters. As each few drops of urine is secreted by the kidneys and finds its way to the bladder, an equal amount is forced into the urethra and thus escapes, producing as it were a continuous overflow. This condition is noticed first at night, but later as the contractility of the bladder becomes more impaired it becomes pronounced in the daytime—especially during any exertion producing contraction of the abdominal muscles.

*Incontinence of Urine*, a condition sometimes mistaken for that just described, is one of the most infrequent symptoms of enlargement of the prostate. In the presence of true incontinence, the catheter will reveal an empty bladder. When incontinence is present, its cause is likely to be found in the inability of the voluntary sphincter to contract properly, because of some minute outgrowth of the prostate, which is so placed as to keep constantly open the vesical end of the urethra.

*Haematuria* is met with in a small percentage of cases. Some of the most constant causes of blood in the urine are:

- 1 Even the most gentle use of the catheter will in some cases produce a considerable amount of bleeding.
- 2 Varicose veins in the prostatic urethra or the neck of the bladder, and their spontaneous rupture is a not infrequent cause of the blood which is present.
- 3 Ulceration is sometimes present, and is due in part, at least, to over-active congestion, to prolonged cystitis, or to calculus. Ulceration will invariably result in at least some blood in the urine. The bleeding point may be sometimes inferred with a fair amount of accuracy by the character of the bleeding. For instance, if bloody urine is being passed, that is a more or less perfect admixture of blood and urine, the inference is that the blood is coming from some point in the prostatic urethra or the neck of the bladder. If, after great straining, only a few drops of blood appear, it is a reasonable certainty that there has been a rupture of some congested veins somewhere around the neck of the bladder. In cases of blood collecting