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THREE CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS OF THE KIDNEY.

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The three cases which I wish to report are of particular interest both from a diagnostic and a pathological standpoint. In the first place, these cases show how chronic the disease may be, and to how few symptoms it may give rise. They also demonstrate how nature can at times limit the disease, and how it is that some intercurrent disease, such as a secondary infection, may be the only reason which leads the patient to consult a physician. It has been stated that symptoms referable to the bladder occur in all cases of tuberculosis of the kidney and actual lesions in advanced ones. In the cases here reported no lesions occurred, and in two of them not even symptoms of bladder disease could be discovered.

Indigo-carmin was used in all these cases as the functional test and proved of great value. It has the advantage over phloridzin that as soon as the blue appears the test is complete, whereas in the phloridzin test one has to collect five-minute specimens and then examine them for sugar. An additional advantage lies in this, that it does not involve the use of a catheter in the ureter, the presence of which may at times produce a reflex anuria, and thus give the impression of a functional inadequacy which may not actually exist. With indigo-carmin, the bladder need only be observed through the cystoscope. There is, therefore, no reflex action at work to disturb the reaction.

From a pathological standpoint the series is also of interest. To judge from the macroscopic appearance of the specimens, one would say that they were all undoubtedly tuberculous in origin. They all showed the gross evidences of caseation and infiltration of the surrounding tissues, the latter to such an extent as to simulate cartilage. Yet microscopic investigation demonstrated a decided difference between the first specimen and the other two. The first one showed the typical tuberculous lesions, namely, giant-cells, tubercles, and caseous material, while the others showed only a diffuse breaking down without any of the other signs of tuberculosis. The caseous-looking material proved to be only