

the nervous circle which controls this function. Occasionally, as in traumatic cases, it is possible to place the finger on the primary lesions; but in the immense majority of cases, we are left in a sea of conjecture. Further researches, conducted in the light of past and future physiological discoveries, can alone reduce these conjectures to order and certainty."

With regard to the treatment of Diabetes Mellitus our author is a firm believer in the efficacy, as a palliative and in some cases curative measure, of a restricted diet from which starch and sugar are rigidly excluded, and is of opinion that the discredit into which this method of treatment has come in some quarters is due to the slovenly and incomplete manner in which it was carried out.

Dr. Roberts' experience of the skimmed milk treatment as proposed by Dr. Donkin, is decidedly unfavorable. His verdict with regard to the rennet and pepsine treatment is also unfavorable.

Opium is the only drug which has seemed to him to be of any service, its good effects seeming to be due, not to its direct influence on the course of the disease, but to its anodyne properties. He says: "If no restriction be placed on the diet, opium in doses of from 6 to 20 grains a day, has always in my experience had the power of reducing the flow of the urine by about one half; that is to say of bringing it down to five or eight pints, and this without increasing its density. But notwithstanding this amelioration in the state of the urine, the downward progress of the disease is not arrested, and the effect of the drug seems attributable to its deadening influence on the appetite rather than to its specific power of checking the formation of sugar. When opium was given to patients under a restricted diet, it did not in my hands exhibit the least power of lessening the flow of urine or the excretion of sugar. Its value depends on its power of inducing sleep, and of allaying the dolorous sensations and irritability which constantly torment diabetic patients." Dr. Roberts has seen no good effects from peroxide of hydrogen, or ozonic ether.

Dr. Roberts makes no mention of a method of treatment which we should like to see tried in this disease, viz., the use of electricity. The more than suspected nervous origin of the disease, together with the fact that glycosuria has been induced by injury to the base of the brain, and that in many cases where no traumatic origin of the disease is known, degenerative changes are found post mortem in the *pons varolii* and *medulla oblongata*, would seem to warrant a trial of this powerful therapeutic agent in

the diseases of the nervous system. The application of the constant current of medium intensity to the brain and spinal cord, especially its upper part, and to the sympathetic and pneumo gastric nerves would seem to be the form of electricity most likely to be useful. Experience is the best and perhaps only reliable test of the usefulness of these suggestions. *Semmola* has found both temporary and permanent results from faradization and galvanization of the pneumogastric nerves. In some of the cases both the quantity of urine and sugar were diminished. It is, however, to be remarked that it would be difficult to galvanize the pneumogastric without also affecting the sympathetic.

In the third part of the work organic diseases of the kidneys are discussed at full length and in a very able and impartial manner. The subjects treated of are Bright's disease, acute and chronic. Suppuration in the Kidney, Pyelitis Pyonephrosis, Concretions in the kidneys, Hydronephrosis, Cysts and Cystic Degeneration of the kidney, Cancer, Tubercle, Benign Growths and Entozoa. There is a concluding chapter on anomalies in form, position and number of the kidneys.

A capital feature of this book, and one which makes it especially valuable to the practical physician is the large number of illustrative cases which are interspersed with the descriptions of the various diseases treated of. We are glad to see that this plan of introducing cases is becoming much more general than it used to be with writers on medical subjects. This is a notable feature in the articles of some of the writers in *Reynold's System of Medicine*.

In conclusion, we can heartily recommend Dr. Roberts' work to our readers, as one which they will read with both profit and pleasure. For the publishers we have no words but those of commendation. The book is well bound, the paper good, and the impression of the type admirably clear.

THE PATHOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF WOMEN, INCLUDING THE DIAGNOSIS OF PREGNANCY. By Graily Hewitt, M.D., London, F.R.C.P., Professor of Midwifery and diseases of Women, University College, and Obstetric Physician to the Hospital; Honorary Fellow of the Obstet. Soc. of Berlin; Vice President of the Obstet. Soc. of London, Philadelphia Lindsay & Blackiston; Montreal, Dawson Brothers.

The third edition of this admirable work now lies before us, and after perusal, we find in it a great improvement on its predecessors as regards the general