

cases are often put on a rigid diet owing to the true significance of the condition not being appreciated. The only thing which really leads to the disappearance of the albuminuria is the assumption of the recumbent posture and many cases are known where a postural albuminuria of a considerable degree of severity has disappeared entirely during the period in which the patient has been confined to bed with a febrile illness and even with such an illness as scarlet fever which is so often accompanied by albuminuria. Diet and medicinal treatment have but little effect although it is stated that in some instances at any rate the albuminuria has cleared up with the administration of calcium chloride. This, however, is certainly not true of all cases, even when there is no evidence of the existence of organic disease.

The bulk of these cases are seen in young men and school-boys and in some cases other symptoms may be present pointing to vascular derangement such as cold extremities, attacks of palpitation and faintness, but these are by no means necessarily present. The nature of these cases is certainly not fully understood at the present time, although there is much reason to think that they depend primarily on some disturbances of the vaso-motor regulation of the kidney circulation. The assumption of the upright posture is associated with a number of complex reflex phenomena affecting the blood vessels of the body generally and it is quite possible that the albuminuria may be associated with the absence of these normal reflexes, the production of renal congestion.

The albuminuria cannot possibly be dependent simply on the action of gravity on the renal blood vessels, since the albuminuria although most marked when the upright posture is assumed, yet tends to diminish in the latter part of the day when other phenomena, the result of the action of gravity on the circulation, such as swelling of the feet and legs, become more marked. This fact is strong evidence against the albuminuria being due to mere passive engorgement of the kidneys produced by gravity. No doubt in some instances the functional albuminuria in boys and adults may be due to the contamination of the urine with spermatozoa, but many cases of postural albuminuria are seen where the most careful