exhaustive paper entitled "Catheter Fever," read by him before the Medical Society of London, submitted certain propositions which called forth a very spirited discussion, in which Sir Henry Thompson, Mr. Savory, Mr. Berkeley Hill, Mr. Reginald Harrison, and others took part. No definite conclusions, however, were arrived at, the speakers being pretty evenly divided in their advocacy of the different theories already mentioned. A very casual investigation of the subject will, however, show the utter inadequacy of any of these theories to explain the cause and nature of urethral fever. In its symptoms and in the absence of gross lesions it differs entirely from pyæmia or septicæmia, or other known septic process; there is no similar pathological condition produced by nervous disturbance, and it presents an entirely different picture from any known form of uræmia. The discovery of the animal alkaloids known as ptomaines and leucomaines, and the experiments of Dr. Bouchard of Paris from 1882 to 1886 upon the toxicity of the alkaloidal substances found in normal urine seem, however, to have given the key to a rational explanation of the origin of urine fever. From the amount of evidence which we now possess there can hardly be any doubt but that this disease is due to the absorption of the products of decomposed or decomposing urine from cut, lacerated or abraded portions of the urethra. It is not a septic process, but a form of poisoning closely allied to uræmia and due to the absorption of a toxic alkaloid produced by or during the decomposition of the urine. The clinical facts pointing to this conclusion amount almost to a demonstration. They are as follows:

(1) Urine fever is unknown after perineal lithotomy, external urethrotomy and internal urethrotomy in the pendulous urethra, and is far less frequent when the urethra is wounded on its roof than when it is wounded on the floor.

(2) When, after internal urethrotomy, the urethra and bladder have been carefully washed out with an antiseptic solution, urine fever does not occur until some time after urine has been passed over the wounded urethral surface, and is then of a mild type and generally free from danger.