

March 30th. A discussion on "Diseases of the Prostate Gland" was the programme for the evening.

Dr L. M. Murray read a short paper describing the anatomy of the prostate, afterwards explaining in a clear and concise manner the pathology of its different diseases, such as acute and chronic prostatitis, enlargement and tubercular disease of the gland.

Dr. Ross discussed the prostatic inflammations, and alluded to the fact that chronic prostatitis was a common affection, as a sequel to gonorrhœa. Many acute cases were often carelessly called cystitis, and many chronic cases were overlooked. He also showed a number of instruments and appliances used in diseases of the prostate and particularly praised the good effect obtained from Dowd's spray in chronic inflammation of the gland.

Dr. Murphy said that the surgeon met prostatic cases after they had been treated for years by the general practitioner. Indeed they seldom sought surgical advice until catheter life had become unendurable. So he would limit his remarks to operative treatment in prostatic hypertrophy.

The technique of Alexander's operation with its modification by Syms and others was described. Vasectomy and castration as practised by White and Harrison was mentioned. McGill's work and its perfection in the present Freyer operation was referred to. The speaker favored the latter operation and said amongst other things, that one of the strongest points was that if the prostatic urethra was tortuous it was removed, and thus a better result was obtained. In cases where operative interference had been delayed too long, and there was great thickening of the bladder, the only operation to consider was suprapubic drainage, by means of a rubber tube, connected with the urinal worn by the patient. He quoted cases who had worn such apparatus for years and had been comfortable until death ensued from some other cause. In conclusion he made an appeal for earlier operation in prostatic hypertrophy.