

naturally suggested itself, and was at first difficult to exclude. But I think the urinary analysis and the result of the operation placed beyond doubt the fact that it was not due to stone. If an infective pyo-nephrosis, how was it produced? The only explanation I can offer is that it proceeded from the external genitals through the bladder, affecting it little if at all, and setting up the inflammatory condition in the pelvis of the kidney. According to Klecki, who has made researches in this particular line, he has found that not only is it possible, but very frequently it happens, especially in cases of constipation, for the venous circulation to become infected from the bowel and hence the blood generally. There might be but little systemic disturbance at first until some particular portion proved suitable for the growth of these micro-organisms and their change into virulent forms. This might be an explanation of the infection in this case, although constipation was not at all marked, two days being the longest period. That pregnancy had a great influence on it, I have no doubt, as shown by the prompt relief by the emptying of the uterus. It does not seem probable that pressure directly on the ureters affected it, as the uterus was apparently in the ordinary position, and if the ureter was compressed by the uterus it would probably have been a slow process, if even it were possible, which seems hardly probable, and unlikely to have set in with such severe and sudden symptoms, and I do not, therefore, believe it to have been due to pressure, which could hardly have been exerted.

The effect of pregnancy being to increase, not only the blood pressure, but the actual bulk of almost all the organs, added to the effect of an acute infection of the pelvis, of the kidney and perhaps ureter, and the accompanying tumefaction might have greatly diminished the lumen of the ureter, and by this means have produced some if not all the serious kidney symptoms by pressure, which would no doubt be largely relieved by the interruption of utero-gestation, and the hæmorrhage, which in this case accompanied it, is, no doubt, a possibility.

It was also interesting to notice how rapidly the neo-microcytes were produced and their prompt action in encapsulating the cocci and thereby stopping the infective process.