

There are still other cases in which the operation is followed by a violent rigor, high fever, prostration, alarm, anxiety and excitement, violent vomiting, profuse diarrhoea, suppression of urine, and death from uræmia.

Finally, true pyæmia and septicæmia may follow operations on the urethra and bladder, as they follow operations elsewhere, and then they are frequently mistaken for urethral fever, which is not to be wondered at when we consider the similarity of the symptoms in these diseases. Pyæmic abscesses are found post-mortem in the prostate, the liver, kidneys, joints, &c., and then these cases seem to support the view that urethral fever is essentially a form of pyæmia. Without going into the discussion of this subject, I believe that urethral fever is due to nervous shock, and that clinically it is not always discriminated from septicæmia and pyæmia. In support of this view I would simply ask, in what other way can we explain its rapid onset and different degrees of severity from such different degrees of causative irritation, or how can we call those symptoms pyæmic which set in two or three hours after the passage of a gum-elastic catheter which can scarcely have abraded the urethra, and before the passage of urine over the possibly abraded surface can have left anything for absorption by it? And, again, how seldom do these symptoms occur in the course of the different suppurative diseases of the genito-urinary tract? With reference to treatment, the great object of course is prevention, for when once established medication seems to have little, if any, effect. Knowing as we do that patients with kidney disease are specially liable to it, and that in them it is particularly dangerous, every case ought to be carefully examined before operation and the patient placed in the most favorable conditions. Some surgeons recommend the use of five-grain doses of quinine, two or three times a day, for several days before the operation. Any operation about the urethra, or even the dilatation of a stricture, generally causes so much pain that anæsthetics are called for, and it is a satisfaction to feel that in using them you are not only sparing the patient the pain of the operation but lessening its risks. *Tr. ferri. perchlor.*, in ten minim doses, three