

average in health, to 1013 in some instances. This hydræmia or watery state of the blood rapidly destroys the red corpuscles, producing anæmia and general dropsy, aided, no doubt, by the fullness of the vascular system from the diminished withdrawal of water by the kidneys. Lastly the diseased epithelium of the uriniferous tubules only partially secreting the solid constituents of the urine the blood becomes poisoned with urea, and convulsions or coma come on.

The first appreciable action of skim milk, taken to the extent of six or seven pints daily, is that of a most energetic diuretic, a profuse flow of urine being rapidly produced, which flushes the uriniferous tubules and washes out the casts and debris of epithelial cells, by which they are blocked and distended. Healthy epithelium is developed in the tubules, and the urea is excreted. Moreover, says Dr. DONKIN, the administration of milk causes the immediate absorption into the blood of a large quantity of albumen specially prepared in the laboratory of nature for assimilation and nutrition, so that the blood soon regains its normal specific gravity, and the reabsorption of the dropsical effusion follows as a physical consequence, according to the law of osmosis. Ordinary diuretics, while producing the same result, labor under the disadvantage that they contribute nothing towards restoring this nutritive quality of the blood. It is important that the milk be skimmed, as it is of greater specific gravity than unskimmed milk, and also on account of its being less liable to cause diarrhœa. Constipation is a sign that the milk is being digested, and can be easily remedied by mild laxatives. It may be given warm or cold, but in no case should it be boiled.

Dr. DONKIN has cured a large number of unenumerated cases of disease of the kidneys of various kinds with this treatment alone, and his testimony has since been corroborated by many of the leading authorities of Edinburgh and London. And although there may be differences of opinion as to why pregnant women should be so liable to convulsions and coma there can be no question about these latter being due to uræmia from disease of the kidneys.

Gentlemen, I will be glad to hear from any present who may have tried an *exclusive* skimmed milk diet in diseases of the kidneys, while to those who have not tried it I would strongly recommend it, with a promise that, in cases of the earlier stages of kidney disease, they may be certain of success.

I would like to ask Dr. Osler, through you, whether the experiment of tying or compressing the renal veins has been tried, and if it would produce uræmia.

Society Proceedings.

MIDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

Stated Meeting, Nov. 9th, 1883.

DR. RODGER, PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

Division of Femoral Artery.—A specimen illustrating a somewhat novel source of injury was sent to the Society by Dr. A. Henderson, of Calgary, N. W. Territory. The deceased from whom the specimen was taken was a cow-boy in the employ of the Stewart Rancho Company and was employed in killing cattle for the C. P. R. construction twenty miles west of Calgary. He was in the habit of carrying his knife unsheathed, hanging to the horn of the saddle, and while taking aim at a steer with his rifle, his horse becoming restive, he raised his leg to steady himself when the point of the knife pierced his left thigh about its middle and to the inner side. Profuse hemorrhage followed, which proved fatal within an hour. A dissection of the part shewed that the femoral artery had been divided a short distance above where it pierced the adductor magnus muscle. As seen by the specimen, the artery was completely divided by a clean cut, while the vein lying alongside failed to give evidence of the slightest scratch.

Dr. Osler exhibited the following pathological specimens:—

Cancer of Liver, with much-enlarged Glands.

—Dr. Phelps, of Chateauguay, N. Y., sent this specimen to Dr. Osler with the following history: "Three years ago the patient, a woman, aged 27, noticed a bunch protruding at ensiform cartilage, which enlarged slowly. Was treated with blisters and escharotics. As it still grew she consulted me last spring. I found a nodulated tumor extending from the ensiform cartilage midway to umbilicus, and about eight inches wide. It pressed firmly against the margins of the ribs and was but slightly moveable. It seemed to be covered by skin only. Percussion gave a tympanitic note over its whole extent. It could be grasped at lower margin and moved freely, but seemed to be attached at the ribs. Up to this date she enjoyed good health, had no pain, only a sense of fullness. Was at a