

# THE MARITIME MEDICAL NEWS

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**Diagnosis of Renal Disease.** A valuable paper on this subject appears in the *British Medical Journal* of March 30, 1907, from the pen of J. R. Bradford. He dwells upon the need of caution in interpretation of results of a single examination of the urine. Nothing else is of as much importance in determining albuminuria as posture; diet exercises a relatively small influence. In many cases no albumin appears in the urine so long as the patient maintains a recumbent position, but soon after the erect posture is assumed, albumin may be found in the urine and persists until the patient again lies down. Consequently the urine passed first in the morning may yield a negative result on examination, although that passed during the day may show the presence of albumin. Two forms of albumin are to be recognized, according to whether dropsy is present or not, the prognosis being graver when it is present than when it is absent. The dropsy is very generally distributed, involving especially the looser subcutaneous tissue, is persistent, is often very marked, and is more resistant to treatment than the dropsy of heart disease. When it is marked in the subcutaneous tissues, it is certain to involve the serous cavities and the various organs also. The lungs are especially apt to suffer, pulmonary œdema being a frequent and dangerous concomitant.

The association between syphilis and nephritis is referred to. The specific disease is often running a

mild course when the nephritis first manifests itself, and may quite escape detection. The albuminuria is usually intense and persistent.

**The Pre-appendicitis State.** John G. Sheldon believes that his experience with cases of appendicitis shows that there is a state of ill health preceding every attack of appendicitis characterized by intermittent, diffuse, slight abdominal pain, constipation in three-fourths of the cases, noticeable abdominal distention in a few, and slight tenderness on deep pressure of the appendix. Eighteen patients having these symptoms developed an attack of appendicitis within three months to a year after their appearance. Appendicitis is, then, always a chronic disease with acute exacerbations of the symptoms.—*Medical Record*, May 4, 1907.

**Mental Disorders of Pregnancy.** Nathan Raw (*Edinburgh Medical Journal*) bases a paper on the records of 102 cases of puerperal insanity. Sixty-eight of these were transferred to asylums according to law at the end of three weeks, twenty-four were cured, eight died, and two are under treatment. In over 62 per cent. albuminuria was present; in several cases the albumin disappeared in a few days, in others it persisted for many weeks. In this series there were seventy-one cases of mania and thirty-one of melancholia. The cases of mania showed a tendency to