

which cures had been made, and many in which the gravest results had followed. The consensus of opinion was that the operation should not be performed unless it could be fairly shown by examination that structural disease actually existed in these organs. The great difficulty, however, to my mind, is the fact that some operators have such fertile imaginations that they can discover disease both before and after operation where individuals blessed with the ordinary amount of common sense cannot find it.

A paper was read by Dr. Stewart, of Montreal, upon nerve-stretching as a remedy for inveterate cases of trigeminal neuralgia. He spoke of the fallacy of considering cases cured unless the patients had been kept some years under observation and no return had taken place. Five per cent. of cases had been cured by nerve-stretching and a much larger proportion had been temporarily relieved.

Dr. Delafield read a magnificent paper on the diseases of the kidneys popularly called Bright's disease.

He classified diseases of the kidneys according to the morbid processes under three heads: Congestion, degeneration, and inflammation. The latter he considered under three heads: Exudative, productive, and toxic. The classification seems to be a very valuable one, but it needs to be tried, when no doubt many defects will be discovered. It is impossible in this brief sketch to give even an idea of the paper. It should be closely studied by those interested in this important subject.

In the discussion which followed, Prof. Gairdner, of Glasgow, gave a very interesting history of the various changes which have taken place from time to time in our ideas upon this class of diseases. He was still inclined to adhere to at least one of the old subdivisions, viz., the separation of the intra-tubular from the interstitial variety.

Very interesting observations were made upon the question of testing the urine for albumen. The general opinion was that heat and nitric acid, separately and together, were the most reliable tests, and that the use of the more delicate reagents, as picric acid, chloroform, carbo-lic acid, etc., often leads to fallacious results, as by them a precipitate is often given when

pathological albumen does not exist in the urine. This matter is of special importance to those who examine for life insurance companies.

Thursday morning.

Dr. Morrow read a paper giving notes of the successful treatment of scars upon the scalp by the transplantation of skin from another portion of the scalp, or from another person. He punched a round piece of tissue out from the cicatrix going down to the subcutaneous areolar tissue; then he fitted in a similarly shaped piece punched out of the healthy scalp. He was quite successful in getting the hair to grow on the transplanted piece.

Dr. Morrow then read a paper on the treatment of alopecia areata. This was followed by a discussion, in which much difference of opinion was shown.

The great majority were agreed that there are two forms of the disease, a parasitic and a neurotic. One section of those present was of opinion that about 90 per cent. of the cases belonged to the former and 10 per cent. to the latter. Another section reversed these percentages.

Dr. Bulkley read a paper on the treatment of alopecia areata by the application of strong carbolic acid. He uses a 95 per cent. solution, applying first with a small swab, and then rubbing it well in; vesication is produced and in some cases the hair grows very well. The general opinion was expressed that there was no specific remedy, and that an important indication was the sustaining of the general health.

In the Association of Physicians a long and interesting discussion took place on "Intestinal Perforation in Typhoid Fever." In such cases as are really of the nature of appendicitis or a combination of the two conditions an operation might be useful, but in those where perforation takes place in other situations the cases are hopeless and ought not to be operated on.

On Friday morning Dr. Graham read a paper on molluscum contagiosum. A main feature was the presentation of a report of the microscopical examination of the tumors made by Dr. A. B. Macallum, of the Toronto University.

Dr. Stellwagon, of Philadelphia, then read a paper based on the history of two fatal cases of mycosis fungoid.