

*A Treatise on Bright's Disease of the Kidneys; its Pathology, Diagnosis and Treatment*, with Chapters on the Anatomy of the Kidney, Albuminuria, and the Urinary Secretion. By Henry B. Millard, M.D., A.M. With numerous original illustrations. New York: Wm. Wood & Co., 1883.

The author states that this work is the result of the experience of nearly twenty-six years' practice, and of the laboratory work of several years. The illustrations, twenty-four in number, are all drawn by himself except seven, and four of these were drawn for him from his own preparations. Three only being borrowed from other authors. He does not consider the term Bright's Disease exact, and in the book employs the word Nephritis. The book is divided into two parts. The first consisting of twenty chapters in which are successively considered the Anatomy of the Kidney, its Physiology and its Pathology. The second part, composed of five chapters, is devoted to the treatment of the various forms of nephritis.

In his description of the epithelia of the kidney, we recognize a disciple of Heitzmann, his illustrations of the varieties of epithelia demonstrate vividly the reticulated structure of the protoplasmic formations. He proceeds to show that this reticulum is the living matter of the cell. He remarks upon and demonstrates the rodlike structure of the epithelium which, he affirms, is formed by this reticulated matter, and that consequently these rods are in close relation with the process of secretion. He asserts that the structureless membrane of the urinary tubules is lined by flat endothelia which in nephritis become enlarged. His description of the sources of the urinary secretion is very clear. In fact throughout the book he displays a remarkably lucidity which adds greatly to the pleasure and profit derived from a perusal of his work.

In discoursing upon the tests for albumin in the urine (our author makes a distinction between albumen and albumin, the latter representing the proximate principle, the former the white of the egg), he accords great accuracy and delicacy to the Brine test of Roberts, of Manchester; and this, by-the-by, is the solitary mention of Roberts' name or allusion to his work on the kidney that occurs. In naming the

possible sources of error in using the picric acid test he does not mention the precipitate formed in the urine of those who are taking the cinchona alkaloids by that reagent.

In the chapter upon casts, he asserts his belief that casts are never found in normal conditions of the kidney. He also gives a good description of the differences between the mucous hyaline casts, drawn principally from Tyson. He says that casts are invariably an albuminous exudate into the tubules; and in chapter XI. he gives an interesting account of their formation.

He considers that all forms of Nephritis may be comprised in three varieties:— I. Croupous; II. Interstitial; III. Suppurative. The Croupous and Interstitial he regards as identical in character, and says that they always co-exist.

His chapters upon treatment are very good and full. In acute nephritis he places a high value upon the chlorides of mercury; in interstitial nephritis using the subchloride, and in croupous the corrosive sublimate. Of this latter he uses very small doses of about 1/1000 of a grain, and of calomel 1/10 to 1/20 grain every two or three hours. Diuretics, he finds very useful and often indispensable; they act variously, and sometimes disappointingly.

We have derived great pleasure from the perusal of this work, a pleasure enhanced by the readable type and excellent quality of the paper upon which it is printed. We heartily recommend it to the public.

*Insanity in its Medico-Legal Relations.* By T. R. Buckham, A.M., M.D. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.

This book is printed on strong paper, and the type, which is set in leaded lines, is invitingly clear. It might be styled a very useful, and indeed much needed publication, could we only hope that it would be calmly read by those who stand most in need of information on the very important questions discussed in its pages; but that any author who appends to his name the ominous letters, A.M., M.D., should expect that the gentlemen of the long robe will condescend to learn from him how ignorant they are of the real nature of insanity, or to discover how utterly absurd, and alternately contradictory, have been the rulings of judges, and how gladiatorily horrible or heinous have been the conflicts of prosecutors and defenders, seems to us little short of the dominance of an insane delusion in