

by Prout as a diagnostic sign of certain spinal affections. Theso he divides into two great classes.—1st. Theso arising from depressing emotions and weakening influences; and in these he recommends the use of fruit, and fluids containing malic acid, as cider and perry: to these, and not to any disease, our author refers the alkalinity of the urine. 2d. Injuries of the spine; our author states, that neither Rayer nor himself had ever been able to observe the urine alkaline in cases of injuries of the spine, unless there were some existing or consecutive affection of the mucous membrano of the urinary passages, producing purulent adixixture, hastening thereby the putrefactive changes in the urine. In the three cases detailed by Prout, two had stricture of the urethra, and the third retraction of the testicle, and a mucous sediment—all bespeaking the existence of some such affection. A microscopical examination, by showing the existence or absence of pus cells in the urine, would have confirmed the diagnosis, or at once corrected it. How far inattention to diet may have led to error, cannot be specified. Prout also mentions, without explanation, what has been already referred to—viz., that although alkaline urine, by copious secretion, be clear and bright, yet boiling causes it to deposit a phosphatic sediment, which falls without any such previous process, if the secretion be more sparing; the phosphates separate before the boiling point, and from their great specific gravity fall rapidly, and may thereby, as well as by their solubility in acids, be distinguished from the albumen found in Bright's disease.—*Month. Journ. Med. Sci.*, Aug., 1847, from *Zeitschrift für Rationelle Medizin*, Bd. III. ht. 1.

10. *Oxalic Diathesis*.—The *Provincial Med. and Surg. Journ.* contains a series of articles by Dr. EDWARD BALLARD, illustrative of the condition of the system, which is accompanied by oxalic urino. The morbid states which Dr. B. has seen the oxalic diathesis accompany, are the following:—"Hypochondriasis; delirium tremens; a disposition to this disease or mental derangement from intemperance; mania; melancholia; mercurial tremor; cerebral hemorrhage; hysteria; spermatorrhœa; debility and cachexia connected with a scrofulous constitution; eczema; acie; gastrodynia; acute, gonorrhœal and chronic rheumatism; Bright's disease of the kidney, (shortly before the comatose stage;) cancer of the liver; cancer of the lung; cancer of the uterus and bladder; irritability of the bladder; enlarged prostate; hypertrophy, with valvular disease of the heart; and aneurism of the aorta. Its occurrence with granular kidneys and albuminuria is remarkable for its extreme rarity. In some persons of unhealthy parentage and scrofulous taint, I am disposed to believe, that the secretion of oxalate of lime with the urino may become habitual, since I have noticed it continuo in such a person for some months, independently of the presence of any active disease, and unaffected by change of air, modifications of diet, or tonic medicine. So far as my own observations have been carried, the sexes appear to share equally in the diathesis."

In one case, (a girl, aged ten years, labouring under debility, connected with scrofulous constitution,) Dr. B. observed all three forms of oxalate of lime, the octahedral, dumb-bell and circular. The octahedra occur much more frequently than the other two forms. Out of 139 specimens of oxalic urino, examined by Dr. B., this form was present in 136, the dumb-bells 6, the circular 10. Out of 19 individuals, whose cases Dr. B. has analyzed, the octahedra occurred in 18, the dumb-bells 2, and the circular form 6. "In ooo individual I have seen," says Dr. B., "the circular plates are the only manifestation of the oxalic tendency, during the time he was under observation; but dumb-bells have, in my experience, never presented themselves without being accompanied, preceded, or followed by octahedra. The circular form, again, I have noticed to occur alone in three out of the ten examples of it; and in only one of the remaining seven were dumb-bells conjoined; and, although I am satisfied, from unrecorded observation, that dumb-bells also may occur without octahedra, yet, in the six specimens, alluded to above, they were accompanied by them. These two remarkable forms appear to be not very distantly allied. The specific gravity of the greatest number of specimens I have examined, ranged between 1014 and 1031, the average between these numbers being 1022. Out of 127 specimens, 14 were below specific gravity 1014, and 8 only above 1031. I have also remarked, with other observers, that when oxalate of lime was in progress of being discharged, a diminution of it

commonly took place whenever the specific gravity was remarkably lowered. One word more upon this head: the circular form appears connected with a specific gravity rather lower than the average. In the three instances, where it occurred alone, the specific gravity was 1011, 1015, and 1019; when with octahedra, 1010, 1016, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023; but when with dumb-bells also, 1026. I have met with dumb-bells in urine as low as specific gravity, 1012, and as high as 1035. It has been stated that the appearance of uric acid not uncommonly precedes the disappearance of the oxalates. It occurred in seven out of the nineteen individuals mentioned, but in none could I perceive any relation of the kind. The sudden discharge of a large quantity of lithate of ammonia, however, has appeared occasionally to influence, in a temporary manner, the subsequent amount of oxalates."

11. *Composition of the Blood in New-Born Animals.*—M. POGGIALE, from some experiments made by him, has arrived at the following conclusions, respecting the composition of the blood in new-born-animals, a subject on which there is much diversity of opinion among chemists:—

1. The proportion of water in the blood is rather high, whilst that of fixed matters is very considerable.

2. The blood of new-born animals is very rich in globules, and poor in fibrine.

3. The quantity of albumen, and of fatty matter, seems to be about the same as that found in the adult.

4. The oxide of iron is more abundant in the blood of the newly-born.

Of all the animals, whose blood he submitted to examination, that of young dogs alone presented a considerable proportion of globules. Among them, the mean proportion was 162.30. Among other young animals, he found less fixed matters and globules than in the adult state; however, the number indicating the proportion of globules is always relatively higher; that of fibrine is very low.—*Lancet*, Sept. 11, 1847.

12. *On the Condition of the Urine in a Case of Urticaria.* By DR. DOUGLAS MACLAGAN.—The gentleman whose case was submitted to the Society was a patient of Dr. Scott, and had long been the subject of severe attacks of urticaria, occurring almost daily, and after every meal, attacking particularly the face and upper part of the body, and by the disfigurement which they occasioned, as well as by the cutaneous irritation, proving a very distressing and annoying complaint. From inquiries made by his medical attendant, his attention was called to the state of his urine, respecting which he had not previously made any particular observations. When his attention was directed to this subject, he found that, though not in any way unnatural in quantity, it had a very pale colour, and considering it to be defective in some respect, he sent it to Dr. Scott for examination. Dr. Scott found it to be of remarkably low density, averaging only about 1010. Naturally suspecting that this might be connected with diseased kidneys, Dr. S. tested it for albumen, but not a trace of this substance could be detected in it. Under these circumstances, Dr. Scott submitted it to Dr. M. for more rigid examination, on the 26th December last.

The urine sent was the morning urine, which should always be used for examination where the whole urine of 24 hours cannot be obtained. The quantity sent was about 10 oz. It was of a very pale straw colour, quite transparent, and let fall no deposit on standing. Its reaction with litmus was feebly but distinctly acid. Its density 1009.039. It was analyzed by the process employed by M. Becquerel, in his *Semiotique des Urines*, by which the amount of water, urea, uric acid, inorganic salts, are determined. The results obtained from the urine in the present instance were the following:—

Urea,	.	.	.	.	6.91
Uric acid,	.	.	.	.	0.05
Inorganic salts,	.	.	.	.	12.03
Other organic matters and water,	.	.	.	.	981.01
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