

GYNECOLOGY

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Thorium in Pyelography.—In September of last year we referred to a paper of Burns, presenting a new substance, thorium, for use in pyelography instead of collargol. The advantages which Burns claimed for thorium were less viscosity of the solution, thus greatly facilitating its rapid elimination from the urinary system, practical absence of the irritating and toxic qualities of collargol, and much less cost (about one-third that of collargol). In a recent paper, BURNS (*Bull. Johns Hopkins Hosp.*, 1916, xxvii, 157) maintains that all these claims have been justified by further experience. The method of preparing the solution is of importance, and is the same as that given in the previous paper, and quoted in full in the above-mentioned abstract. Burns reports that the thorium solution has now been used in 125 cases without a single untoward result. It has been used in varying amounts up to 600 c.c. in the upper urinary tract and up to over 900 c.c. in the bladder. There have never been any evidences of urinary disturbance following its use, and subsequent cystoscopic examinations have shown no evidence of inflammation of the vesical mucosa. In cases where operation within a few hours or days has permitted of examining the bladder, ureters, and kidney pelves after the use of thorium no evidence of irritative action has ever been found. Extensive animal experiments have shown no signs of peritonitis after injection of large amounts of the fluid into the peritoneal cavity; in a few instances, however, death of the animal has occurred after the injection of large doses intraperitoneally or intravenously, though even larger doses in other instances have produced no ill effects. The high degree of fluidity of the solution is shown by the fact that roentgen-ray plates made a few minutes after the injection has been discontinued give no suggestion of a shadow, thus proving that the thorium has been completely eliminated from the urinary tract. The solution is exceedingly opaque to the roentgen ray and gives a shadow of great clearness and brilliancy. Its stability is not in the least affected by sterilization either by steam under pressure or by boiling. If the experience of Burns shall be confirmed by others it would appear that in the thorium solution devised by him we have an ideal agent for pyelographic work which will remove many of the very real drawbacks that have heretofore accompanied this valuable diagnostic procedure.

Unilateral Hematuria Associated with Microscopic Calculi.—The etiology of unilateral hematuria in the absence of demonstrable calculus or tumor formation is often an exceedingly puzzling question. Of late, chronic inflammation has been considered by several authors to be the underlying factor in this condition; in this connection a case