

CHEMICAL CHANGES OCCURRING IN THE BODY AS A RESULT OF CERTAIN DISEASES IN INFANTS AND CHILDREN

II. ACUTE HEMORRHAGIC NEPHRITIS. SUB-ACUTE NEPHRITIS; SEVERE CHRONIC NEPHRITIS

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It is well known that in normal subjects the osmotic pressure of the blood serum averages about 310 osmolar millimoles, and varies but little. Since more than 90 per cent of the serum osmotic pressure is due to electrolyte, it is apparent that metabolism of the latter must tend to be such as to maintain a fairly fixed concentration in the blood plasma. Gamble and his coworkers (1) pointed out how constant the level of fixed base in the plasma remained during fasting, and indicated to what extent as a result of experimental pyloric obstruction, reciprocal variation of such anions as Cl' and HCO_3' could occur without change in the level of total base. One of us (A. F. H.) (2) also emphasized the same fact in a study of pyloric and intestinal obstruction, intestinal fistulae, and marked vomiting of infants and children. Urinary secretion (or lack of secretion) plays the principal rôle in this strict maintenance of plasma electrolyte. When urine secretion is too scanty for this purpose as for instance in cases of anhydremia due to diarrhea (3) the level of total electrolyte in the plasma occasionally reaches enormous values.

It is the object of this paper to present data obtained from cases of glomerular nephritis with the idea principally of showing: (1) that in acute hemorrhagic nephritis, marked changes in electrolyte and non-protein nitrogen depend chiefly upon such symptoms as *anuria*, *edema*, *convulsions* and *vomiting*; (2) that in cases of subacute and chronic

glomerular nephritis with marked renal injury changes also occur as a result both of retention of acid (chiefly phosphoric and sulfuric, occasionally also hydrochloric) and loss of plasma fixed base, dependent primarily upon the failure of the kidney to excrete acid neutralized by ammonia and secondarily upon a failure of the kidney to secrete urine of the normal maximum acidity; (3) that as total electrolyte diminishes in the plasma, non-protein nitrogen increases so that the osmotic pressure remains normal; (4) that consequently, the alteration in the concentration and composition of plasma electrolyte and not the concentration of non-protein nitrogen should be considered as the more important result of renal insufficiency.

The chemical methods were the same as described previously (2). In an attempt to calculate the equivalent *osmolar* concentration of the individual electrolytes and non-electrolyte crystalloids from their molar concentration, advantage was taken of the following facts and assumptions:

(1) According to Landolt and Börnstein (4), the molecular lowering of the freezing point of NaCl is 3.45°C., which would make the osmolar concentration by volume 1.87 times the molar.

(2) According to the same authors, the molecular lowering of the freezing point of NaHCO₃ is 3.59°C. which would make its osmolar concentration by volume 1.95 times the molar.

(3) The molecular lowerings, according to the same authors, of Na₂HPO₄ and NaH₂PO₄ are 5.0°C. and 3.59°C. respectively. If we assume that the ratio Na₂HPO₄/NaH₂PO₄ remains 4/1, the osmolar concentration by volume of the serum inorganic phosphate can be calculated by multiplying the concentration of inorganic phosphate in mgm. per cent by the factor 1.02.

(4) The osmotic effect of the protein we considered as being equivalent to that of undissociated B-protein (calculated by Van Slyke's (5) formula for human blood).

(5) Lactic acid was considered as being present in the form of Na lactate, with the same degree of dissociation as NaCl. Its osmolar concentration by volume, therefore, would be 1.87 times its molar.

(6) The osmotic effect of non-protein nitrogen was assumed to be due entirely to urea and was calculated on the assumption that 70 per cent of the non-protein nitrogen was urea nitrogen. The remainder was not taken into account.

(7) The osmotic effect of glucose in terms of osmolar concentration by volume was calculated by the equation milligram glucose per 100 cc. $\times 10 \times 1/180$.

In each instance the osmolar concentration by volume was converted to osmolar concentration by weight by applying the correction used by Van Slyke (6) for the volume occupied by the protein. In practice this meant dividing the osmolar millimoles by volume by the factor $0.990 - (0.8 \times \text{Protein})$.

No attempt was made to allow for the osmotic effect of sulfate. The usual excess of total base over determined acid was also not taken into account, because of our lack of information as to the nature of such undetermined acid. Inaccuracy is admittedly introduced in the calculation of the osmotic pressure of non-protein nitrogen by our failure to determine urea directly.

On the basis of these assumptions, the normal blood of the young child would be as follows:

	<i>mM. concentration of B⁻</i>	<i>Equivalent osmolar mM. by weight</i>
NaCl 585 mgm./100 cc.....	100	200
CO ₂ content 55 volumes per cent.....	23.3	48.7
pH 7.40.....		
Protein 7.00 per cent.....	14.5	15.6
Inorganic P 5.0 mgm./100 cc.....	3.0	5.5
Lactic acid 18.0 mgm./100 cc.....	2.0	4.2
"Total" acid.....	143.8	274.0
Total base.....	145.0	
Glucose 100 mgm./100 cc.....		6.4
Non-protein nitrogen 30 mgm./100 cc.....		8.0
"Total" non-electrolyte.....		14.4
"Total" acid plus non-electrolyte.....		288.0

The average lowering of the freezing point of normal serum of children is about 0.570°C . The equivalent osmolar concentration would be 310 millimoles. The total theoretical osmolar concentration of the normal serum is, therefore, 93.0 per cent of the observed. Electrolyte furnishes 95 per cent of the total theoretical osmotic pressure, the remainder being due chiefly to urea and glucose. The small fraction unaccounted for is presumably due largely to electrolyte as indicated by the excess of total base over the sum of the five individual acids determined.

ACUTE HEMORRHAGIC NEPHRITIS

Protocols

Cases 1 to 16, inclusive: These cases were typical uncomplicated cases of acute hemorrhagic nephritis, without uremia, marked edema, or marked vomiting.

Case 17. Cletus B. Age, 9 years. This patient was admitted on May 12, 1927. Three weeks previously edema was noted, which steadily increased. He complained of headache, nausea, vomited occasionally and during the night before admission had two generalized convulsions. When admitted he was quite drowsy. There was general anasarca. His blood pressure was 187/100 mm. Hg. There was moderate fever and leucocytosis. The mucous membrane of his nose was reddened, particularly over the left middle turbinate. The tonsils were enlarged and red. Frequent convulsions occurred during the first twenty-four hours, despite the free use of sedatives. A very small amount of urine, containing many red blood cells, leucocytes and casts was passed during this period. Two hundred fifty cubic centimeters of 20 per cent glucose were given intravenously, and there followed a very marked improvement. Convulsions ceased, diuresis occurred, edema was rapidly lost, the urine cleared and on May 17 when the patient left the hospital there was only a faint albuminuria.

Case 18. Rose M. Age, 14 years. This patient had been well until about two weeks before hospital admission on March 28, 1928. She then became ill with fever, cough and headache. A week later edema of her face, feet and abdomen were noted. This edema largely subsided after about four or five days. Her urine was not examined during that time. On March 27 three generalized convulsions occurred, each lasting several minutes. When first seen at the hospital she was without edema, fever or other signs of acute infection, but much disoriented. Her blood pressure was 162/108 mm. Hg. Her urine showed considerable albumin and many red blood cells, white blood cells and casts. Two more generalized convulsions occurred before blood was taken for chemical examination. One hundred forty cubic centimeters of 1 per cent magnesium sulfate solution were then given intravenously, after which she became quiet and had no more convulsions. The blood pressure gradually returned to normal by April 5. On April 14 the urine was free from albumin and blood cells and showed but an occasional cast and the patient was discharged.

Case 19. Tom F. Age, 5 years. Except for frequent colds, this patient was well until about October 8, 1926, when edema of the eyelids was noted. A few days later, the scrotum became edematous, and on October 20 he was admitted to the hospital. He then had generalized edema and ascites. The urine contained a large amount of albumin and many leucocytes and red blood cells. His tonsils and adenoids were hypertrophied and infected, pus was present in the nose and

there was x-ray evidence of maxillary sinusitis. Because the clinical picture was that of nephrosis rather than acute hemorrhagic nephritis, he was given a high caloric, high protein diet without restriction of fluid. Edema disappeared and the urine gradually cleared. On November 26 the tonsils and adenoids were removed. Gross hematuria and slight edema followed. Later otitis media developed, with x-ray evidence of mastoiditis. His general condition improved, however, the temperature became normal, the urine cleared and the discharge from the ear ceased without mastoidectomy. He was discharged on January 21, 1927 with only a faint trace of albumin in the urine.

Case 20. William J. Age, 5 years. This patient had been well until October 15, 1927, when he developed a mild scarlet fever. About three weeks later, November 6, he became drowsy and vomited several times. On the following two days there was marked suppression of the urine. On November 9, there was complete anuria, which persisted up to and also on November 10, the day of admission to the hospital. On the same day vomiting continued and a puffiness of his face was noticed. When first seen in the hospital he did not appear acutely ill. There was a slight edema of his face, feet and ankles. There was apparently no urine in the bladder. After chemical study of his blood, 500 cc. of Ringer's solution were given intraperitoneally and 675 cc. of 20 per cent glucose intravenously. He was given water and fruit juices without restriction and a quart of milk daily. On November 11 urinary output was 18 cc.; on November 12, 49 cc.; on November 13, 92 cc.; on November 14, 158 cc.; on November 15, 215 cc. and from that time on his output continued to increase. Up to December 11 the urine contained a small amount of blood and a trace of albumin; then blood and albumin disappeared from the urine. On December 1 he developed pneumonia with pleurisy, from which he recovered a week or so later. He was discharged on December 14, well.

Case 21. Catherine B. Age, 9 years. Admitted to the hospital on April 8, 1926. From the age of 2 months the patient had frequent recurrent attacks of otitis media, with spontaneous rupture of the drums and foul smelling, purulent discharge, continuing for varying lengths of time. Two weeks before admission, otitis media again recurred, and the left drum ruptured spontaneously. Irregular fever, however, continued and vomiting became a very pronounced symptom. Three days before admission the urine was found to contain gross blood.

When admitted to the hospital, the patient was found prostrated, much underweight, pale and moderately anhydremic. She complained of nausea, and promptly vomited practically everything taken by mouth. Chronic bilateral otitis media, with superimposed subacute otitis media on the left was present. In addition, pus was found in the nose and the lymph nodes in the anterior and posterior cervical triangles were enlarged. X-ray indicated mastoiditis on the left side and bilateral maxillary sinusitis. The urine showed gross blood, considerable albumin and many casts. The pronounced chemical changes in the

TABLE 1
The composition of the blood serum in cases of acute hemorrhagic nephritis

Case	Date	NaCl	CO ₂ content	pH	Protein	Inorganic P	Ca	Lactic acid*	Glucose*	N.P.N.*	Total base	Total acid determined	Undetermined acid	Calculated osmotic pressure	Observed osmotic pressure	Remarks
Typical uncomplicated cases (1-16 inclusive)																
Maximum value....		mgm. per cent	vol. uncs per cent		per cent	mgm. per cent	mgm. per cent	mgm. per cent	mgm. per cent	mgm. per cent	mM.	mM.	mM.	mM.	mM.	
Minimum value.....		638	65.5	7.48	9.56	8.4	14.1	27.7	148	86.0	149	148	8.0	307	337	
Average value.....		503	34.5	7.35	5.47	2.0	9.5	11.3	58	25.0	140	134	-3.0	273	280	
Number of determinations.....		569	53.0	7.39	7.12	5.6	11.0	22.1	104	45.7	144	141	2.7	291	310	
		26	25	23	26	17	8	16	23	26	11	15	11	15	5	
Cases with acute uremic convulsions																
Cletus B. No. 17	May 12, 1927	623	28.1	7.13	6.55	4.2	110	223	223	43.3	139	145	-6.0	307		Marked edema and elevation of blood pressure. Urine strongly acid. Ammonia present in large amount
	May 13, 1927	591	40.2	7.39	6.55	5.9	12.4	36.7	130	58.3		139		292		
Rose M. No. 18	March 29, 1928	597	48.7	7.32	7.20	4.6		40.3	109	29.0	163	144	19.0	293		No edema. Blood pressure elevated
Cases with marked oliguria and edema																
Tommy F. No. 19	October 23, 1926	562	54.9	7.37	5.03	5.9	9.3		82	36.3						Marked edema
	October 25, 1926	561	48.9	7.35	5.25	(5.9)		39.2		38.3	137	135	2.0	278		Moderate edema
	November 2, 1926	567	56.1	7.40	6.34		9.1		87	32.3						
	November 8, 1926	585	46.7	7.36	6.34											

W. M. H. No. 20	November 11, 1927	480	43.5	7.27	7.20	7.1	16.4	96	92.0	133	120	13.0	260	Moderate edema. sure elevated	Blood pres- sure elevated
	November 15, 1927	415	33.9	7.33	7.20	11.5	22.7	103	107	109?	109	0.0	241	299	
	November 19, 1927	468	39.5	7.35	7.63	6.7	25.2	124	76.0	117?	119	-2.0	254	304	Marked edema.
	November 29, 1927	644	36.1	7.38	8.28	6.5	26.4	101	40.0	142?	149	-7.0	301	312	Moderate edema. sure normal No edema

Cases with marked vomiting and dehydration

Catherine B. No. 21	April 12, 1926	410	49.8	7.35	7.96	16.2	8.4	130	250	127	120	7.0	301	308	Urine pH 6. No chloride or ammonia
	April 12, 1926	375	67.4	7.40	7.72	18.0	6.4	195	253	126	120	6.0	311	309	Urine pH 6. No chloride or ammonia
	April 13, 1926	410	69.2	7.45	7.03	24.5	3.6	100	263	132	132	3.0	331	314	Urine pH 6. No chloride or ammonia
	April 14, 1926	479	68.0	7.40	6.66	18.4	4.0	109	268	139	136	3.0	338	331	Urine pH 6. No chloride or ammonia
	April 16, 1926	468	64.8	7.47	6.55	16.6	5.0	104	204	140	133	7.0	316	314	Urine pH 5. Chloride present. Ammonia absent
	April 17, 1926	515	67.0	7.46	6.05	12.7	10.2	104	136	140	144	-4.0	320	299	
	April 21, 1926	509	63.4	7.47	5.68	8.3	8.8	135	51.0	137	133	4.0	276	302	
	April 26, 1926	535	68.0	7.41	5.24	7.9	12.0	109	46.0	144	138	6.0	283	298	
	April 28, 1926	550	63.0	7.45	5.24	7.5	12.4	89	42.0	141	138	3.0	282	314	
	December 20, 1926	562	63.5	7.47	7.85	6.0		67	24.0	142	145	-3.0	292		
Luella R. No. 22	April 16, 1927	503	47.7	7.43	10.2	5.6	13.1	154	154	129	133	-4.0	300	299	
	April 21, 1927	527	48.6	7.41	11.5	4.7	13.5	89	32.0	139	138	1.0	297	308	
Tommie M. No. 23	November 10, 1927	491	55.4	7.47	9.35	8.3		125	102	137	137	296	315	315	No edema. Blood pressure elevated
	November 18, 1927	585	55.5	7.42	10.2	5.7	42.8	101	44.0	153	153				
	November 28, 1927	561	58.0	7.39	9.77	4.6	16.1	115	46.0	146	146				

* Whole blood determined except where serum determinations are indicated by postscript (s).
() indicates assumed values.

blood are shown in table 1 and chart 1. During the next five days, there was irregular fever, the temperature fluctuating from 37°C. to 39.3°C. The leucocyte count rose from 10,800 on admission to 21,000 on April 14. Persistent vomiting continued. On April 14, both antra were irrigated, pus being washed out, and the left mastoid was opened, pus also being found. From both the mastoid and the blood stream *Streptococcus hemolyticus* was cultured. Following mastoidectomy vomiting ceased immediately. A marked skin eruption of the erythema multiforme type appeared. The patient's condition steadily improved, despite the fact that the septicemia persisted until April 20 and that an abscess, probably embolic, developed in the chest wall. Following tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy on May 21, fever and gross hematuria recurred, lasting for a week. The maxillary antra were treated by repeated irrigations. The patient was then sent to the country department of the hospital for convalescence. There her temperature became normal, her urine cleared completely, and she gained 30 pounds in weight in 9 months.

Therapy directly influencing the composition of the blood studied was as follows:

On April 12, after the first blood sample was obtained, 900 cc. of Ringer's solution were given intraperitoneally, and 400 cc. of 10 to 20 per cent glucose intravenously. After the second blood sample on the same day, 1500 cc. of Ringer's solution and 100 cc. of glucose were given. On April 14, 400 cc. of Ringer's solution were given intraperitoneally and 250 cc. of glucose solution intravenously. On April 15, 175 cc. of blood, and on April 21, 180 cc. of blood were given intravenously.

Case 22. Luella R. Age, 5 years. This patient was admitted on December 3, 1921. A month previously, she had complained of earache and had fever. A week before admission there was a spontaneous rupture of one ear drum. Hematuria and marked vomiting were present for three days before admission. On admission, the patient was desiccated and had slight fever. The urine contained gross blood, much albumin and many casts. The tonsils were large and ragged and the left ear was discharging pus through a good sized perforation. With rest in bed and restricted diet, the general condition improved, the urine cleared, and on April 22 the tonsils and adenoids were removed.

Case 23. Tommie M. Age, 6 years. This patient had been well until he was injured during a tornado in the latter part of September, 1927. He received many skin wounds, which later became infected. About the first of November, blood was noted in his urine, slight fever was present and vomiting became very marked. A week later, November 8, 1927, he was admitted to the hospital. He was found to be undernourished and with several infected skin wounds and many scars of wounds already healed. The tonsils were ragged and red and there was considerable pus seen in his nose. His urine showed gross blood and a large amount of albumin. With rest in bed and restricted diet, his urine gradually cleared and became negative on December 12, at which time he was discharged on a regular diet.

The typical uncomplicated cases

In general, as can be noted in table 1, the chemical changes of the blood encountered in typical uncomplicated cases of acute hemorrhagic nephritis were of small magnitude, and in this respect were in agreement with the observations of Blackfan and Hamilton (7). Chloride varied in both directions from the normal, but averaged slightly

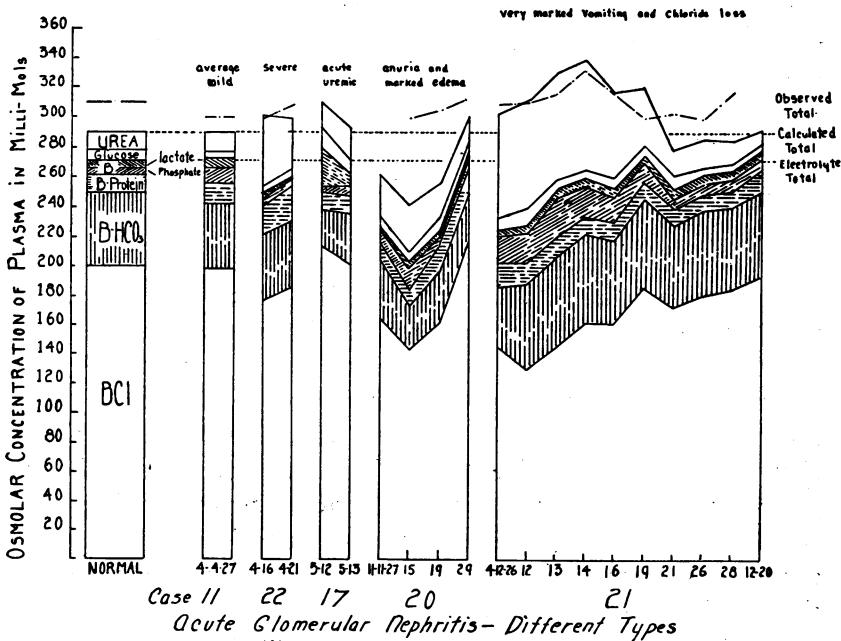


CHART 1. THE OSMOLAR CONCENTRATION OF THE PRINCIPAL ELECTROLYTE AND NON-ELECTROLYTE CRYSTALLOIDS IN THE SERUM OF CASES OF ACUTE HEMORRHAGIC NEPHRITIS

low, 97.3 mM. Bicarbonate also varied in both directions, but averaged 22.5 mM., a low normal value. The pH varied very little, and averaged 7.39. Protein varied considerably, the lowest value being 5.47 per cent and the highest 9.56, averaging 7.12, a normal value. Inorganic phosphate also varied both ways, but averaged 5.6 mgm. per cent, a high normal value. Calcium varied little and averaged normal. Lactic acid did not exceed 27.7 mgm. per cent, and averaged

22.1. Glucose varied from 58 to 148 mgm. per cent. Total base varied only from 140 to 149, averaging 144 mM. "Total" acid ($\text{Cl} + \text{HCO}_3 + \text{protein} + \text{HPO}_4 + \text{lactic acid}$) varied somewhat more, from 134 to 148 mM., averaging 141. Undetermined acid varied from -3.0 to 8.0, averaging 2.7 mM. By freezing point determinations, in five instances the osmotic pressure averaged 310 mM., varying between 280 and 337. The calculated osmotic pressure varied from 273 to 307, averaging 291 mM., or 94.0 per cent of the average determined osmotic pressure, a normal relationship. Non-protein nitrogen varied from 25 to 86 mgm. per cent, averaging 45.7.

Cases with acute uremic convulsions

Case 17, whose blood was studied shortly after uremic convulsions had occurred, showed a marked "acidosis." The BHCO_3 content was reduced by 11 mM. and was almost exactly equalled by the 10.2 mM. increase in lactic acid. The pH had dropped to 7.13. BCl was increased by 7 mM. There was also hyperglycemia, the glucose content being 223 mgm. per cent. On the next day, with cessation of convulsions, there was noted an increase in BHCO_3 of 5.1 mM. with a decrease of 8.1 mM. lactic acid and 6 mM. BCl. As calculated, about 6 mM. electrolyte had left the blood stream. Diuresis had not yet begun, and edema was apparently increasing during this period. The lactic acid "acidosis" in this instance undoubtedly occurred as a result of the convulsions and anoxemia present at and before the time that the blood was studied.

Case 18 was a similar case and similarly showed decrease in BHCO_3 and increase in lactic acid. An unusually high value for undetermined acid, 19.0 mM., was indicated, however. Total base in this instance was unusually high, and may have been in error, and such a large quantity of undetermined acid may not really have existed.

It is rather interesting to note that in Case 17 the non-protein nitrogen during the acute uremic manifestations was but 43.3 mgm. per cent, and in Case 18 but 29 mgm. per cent.

Cases with marked oliguria and edema

Case 19, when admitted was at first mistaken for nephrosis. Edema and albuminuria were very marked, and there was neither non-protein

nitrogen retention nor elevation of blood pressure. The chief abnormal blood findings were low plasma protein and slightly diminished calcium, total base and "total" acid. In these respects the blood findings were similar to those usually found in nephrosis. The hematuria which followed immediately after tonsillectomy and the later complete recovery from all edema and albuminuria in a relatively short time made us feel that the case was one of subsiding acute glomerular nephritis accompanied by unusually marked edema and albuminuria.

Case 20 is also of special interest because of the changes associated with very pronounced suppression of urinary secretion. On admission on November 11, 1927, after four days of almost complete suppression, BCl was found reduced by 18 mM., BHCO_3 by about 4 mM., while lactic acid and protein were normal and phosphoric acid increased by only 1.1 mM. equivalent univalent base. The total base, although reduced, was relatively high, exceeding the "total" acid determined by 13 mM., thus indicating the presence of considerable undetermined acid. Non-protein nitrogen was rather markedly increased, however. Without consideration of the apparently large amount of undetermined acid, the osmolar concentration of the determined acids plus glucose and urea was lower than the normal (see chart 1). Four days later, on November 15, despite salt solution administration and continued anuria, BCl and BHCO_3 were still further reduced. At this time, however, there was noted an appreciable increase in phosphoric acid. The "total" acid determined, however, was extremely low, and agreed very closely with total base, indicating either that one of the two of the total base values was in error, or that the hitherto appreciable amount of undetermined acid had disappeared from the blood. The observed freezing point was normal. The theoretical osmolar concentration calculated from the determined acids, urea, and glucose was only 80.6 per cent of the observed. This discrepancy, if not due to experimental error, would indicate the presence of some undetermined osmotically active substance. We are inclined to question the unusually low value for total base and believe this undetermined osmotically active substance was largely electrolyte.

On November 19 after the establishment of urinary secretion, a decided tendency for return toward normal of individual electrolytes

as well as non-protein nitrogen was noted. On November 29, however, a few days after a decided diuresis with loss of edema fluid had begun, an interesting chemical picture was noted: BHCO_3 was still reduced, but BCl was decidedly higher than normal. Total acid was slightly above the normal and non-protein nitrogen had dropped almost to the normal value. A normal freezing point at this time was observed and agreed well with the calculated one.

Cases with marked vomiting and dehydration

Case 21 was admitted after two weeks of marked vomiting and one week of hematuria, the results of a hemolytic streptococcic infection of one mastoid and both maxillary antra. Severe dehydration was present. The blood picture on admission was extremely interesting. BCl was greatly reduced, being but 71 mM. BHCO_3 was of a low normal concentration, 21.0 mM. The pH was 7.35. Protein concentration was 7.96 per cent, as compared with 5.24 per cent following restoration of a normal fluid balance, thus indicating marked water loss from the plasma. Inorganic phosphate was very much increased and calcium considerably decreased. Total base was also considerably reduced, 127 mM., and exceeded "total" acid by 7.0 mM. The undetermined acids were presumably sulfuric and lactic. The total electrolyte osmolar concentration as calculated was only 227 mM. Non-protein nitrogen, however, was so elevated (250 mgm. per cent) that the *total* osmolar concentration as calculated was 301 mM. in very good agreement with the observed freezing point indicating a concentration of 308 mM. The administration of 900 cc. of Ringer's solution and 400 cc. of 10 per cent glucose on the day of admission effected a considerable dilution of the plasma, judging from the fall of plasma protein from 7.96 to 7.03 per cent, but vomiting persisted and BCl remained low, while BHCO_3 increased to 28.1 mM. Inorganic phosphate reached the enormous value of 24.5 mgm. per cent, and calcium the low value of 3.6 mgm. per cent. The total electrolyte osmolar concentration was little altered, being but 230 mM. and the non-protein nitrogen remained elevated. As before, the freezing point indicated a normal osmotic pressure (309 mM.)

With further administration of Ringer's solution, there occurred an increase in BCl to 810 mM. on April 14 sufficient to raise the elec-

trolyte osmolar concentration to 260 mM., making the total calculated osmolar concentration 338 mM. The freezing point indicated an osmolar concentration of 331 mM. There was, therefore, a distinct rise in osmolar concentration. There then occurred a marked reduction in non-protein nitrogen concentration, which must have been due to secretion into the urine. That such increase in urea secretion was not due to any spontaneous improvement in the patient's condition was indicated by the fact that she was vomiting as much as previously, had not as yet had her mastoid drained, had still a septiemia and apparently was not secreting any larger quantities of urine. Further increase in BCl concentration which occurred with the immediate cessation of vomiting after mastoidectomy later on April 14 was followed also by continued reduction in the non-protein nitrogen concentration and by April 28 the blood was again practically normal in all respects.

In most respects the blood of this patient showed changes similar to those seen in the cases of severe chronic nephritis described later. There was, however, no BHCO_3 decrease but in fact usually a slight increase. We are, therefore, inclined to feel that vomiting and not faulty urinary secretion was instrumental in causing chloride loss, permitting BHCO_3 to remain even higher than normal despite considerable increase in phosphoric and undetermined acid.

Case 22 was similar to Case 21, a low total base concentration of 129 mM. due chiefly to BCl loss, resulting in reduction of total electrolyte osmolar concentration to 252 mM. Non-protein nitrogen increase to 154 mgm. per cent was sufficient to maintain a theoretical total osmolar concentration of 300 mM. The observed freezing point indicated a concentration of 299 mM. Later, as total base increased to 139 mM., non-protein nitrogen decreased to normal, and the osmotic pressure was still normal both as calculated and observed.

This case was also of interest because of the enormous increase of serum protein to 10.2 and 11.5 per cent. Despite such marked anhydremia there occurred increase in neither phosphoric nor lactic acid.

Case 23 was very similar to case 22, showing marked anhydremia with, however, phosphoric and lactic acid increase. As in both case 21 and 22, the initial low electrolyte concentration was balanced osmotically by non-protein nitrogen increase.

TABLE 2
The composition of the blood serum in cases of sub-acute and chronic glomerular nephritis

Case	Date	NaCl		CO ₂ content		pH	Protein	Inorganic P	Ca	Lactic acid*	Glucose*	N.P.N.*	Total base	Total determined acid	Undetermined acid	Calculated osmotic pressure	Observed osmotic pressure	Remarks
		mgm. per cent	vol-umes per cent	mgm. per cent	mgm. per cent	per cent	mgm. per cent	mgm. per cent	mgm. per cent	mgm. per cent	mgm. per cent	mgm. per cent	mgm.	mgm.	mgm.	mgm.	mgm.	
Elizabeth Z. No. 24	January 12, 1925	597	(50.0)	(7.40)	5.03	(6.0)				(18.0)	110	71.0		140		297		Moderate edema and elevation of blood pressure. Urine strongly acid, containing chloride and ammonia
	April 8, 1925	585	(50.0)	(7.40)	5.25	(6.0)				(18.0)		44.0		138		282		No edema. Blood pressure 130/80
	April 9, 1925	546	(40.0)	(7.35)	3.50	(9.0)				(18.0)		57.0		123		261		Slight edema. Blood pressure 88/40
	April 11, 1925	480	14.2	(7.20)	5.25	13.2				(18.0)		89.0		108		234		Marked edema. Blood pressure 90/60
	April 13, 1925	471	35.3	(7.30)	5.47	14.4				(18.0)		152		116		268		Marked edema. Blood pressure 110/82
	April 14, 1925	456	42.4	(7.35)	6.58	12.0				(18.0)		191		119		288		No edema
	April 14, 1925	517	38.1	(7.35)	6.12	14.4				(18.0)		200		127		300		Urine from April 11 to May 11 contained but very little chloride or ammonia and was strongly acid
	April 15, 1925	512	38.3	(7.35)	6.12	10.8				(18.0)		225		125		304		
	April 18, 1925	514	40.6	(7.35)	6.12	11.6				(18.0)		190		125		297		
	April 20, 1925	512	(41.0)	(7.35)	(6.23)	(10.0)				(18.0)		112		126		275		
	April 23, 1925	527	(41.0)	(7.35)	6.34	(10.0)				(18.0)		102		128		279		
	April 27, 1925	519	(41.0)	(7.35)	8.49	(8.0)				(18.0)		99.0		130		282		
	April 29, 1925	505	43.0	(7.35)	(8.06)	(8.0)				(18.0)		66.0		128		267		Very slight edema. Blood pressure 136/112
	May 3, 1925	521	44.3	(7.35)	(7.63)	(8.0)				(18.0)		96.0		130		282		
	May 8, 1925	479	39.6	(7.35)	7.20	(8.0)				(18.0)		82.0		130		258		
	May 11, 1925	468	33.0	(7.35)	6.98	(8.0)				(18.0)		89.0		117		251		
	May 16, 1925	527	(45.5)	(7.35)	7.55	7.6				(18.0)		72.0		129		271		

TABLE 2—Continued

Case	Date	NaCl	CO ₂ content	pH	Protein	Inorganic P	Ca	Lactic acid*	Glucose*	N.P.N.*	Total base	Total determined acid	Undetermined acid	Calculated osmotic pressure	Observed osmotic pressure	Remarks
Marie H. No. 26	November 3, 1925	608	31.8	7.10	8.06	9.5	6.8	(18.0)	70	170		139		321		
	November 9, 1925	614	32.4	7.35	7.85	9.5		(18.0)	84	130		142		313		
	November 17, 1925	620	32.0	7.30	8.19	(9.5)	6.0	(18.0)	82	111		144		311		
	November 25, 1925	550	31.6	(7.30)	6.66	(9.5)	8.3	(18.0)	106	117		129		285		
	December 31, 1925	620	23.4	(7.30)	6.67	(9.5)	6.6	(18.0)	108	108		138		299		
	January 1, 1926	585	19.9				8.6	(18.0)		107						
	January 5, 1926	491	22.5	7.28	7.44		8.6		111	160						
	January 8, 1926	725	21.6	7.25	6.83	11.0	9.0	(18.0)	112	170		150		347		
	January 11, 1926	608	20.0	7.27	7.20	13.4	6.6	(18.0)	109	180		133		320		
	January 25, 1926	562	28.3	(7.27)	6.55			(18.0)	109	163		132		284		
	February 3, 1926	562	32.5	7.27	8.28	13.6	6.6	(18.0)	122	60.0						
	February 12, 1926	596	36.3	7.20	8.05				96	146						
	March 18, 1926	602	43.7	7.36	5.47	11.3	6.0	(18.0)	112	67.0		140		292		
	April 12, 1926	591	33.2	7.23	6.25		7.2		130	112		133		300		
	May 17, 1926	661	28.5	(7.25)	5.57	12.6			103	101						
	June 14, 1926	649	33.5	7.30	5.47				122	99.0						
	July 12, 1925	620	34.7	7.32	5.25		6.9		112	87.0	145	132	13	289		
	August 9, 1926	573	31.8	7.38	5.68	4.5	7.3	(18.0)	109	123		136		285		
	August 23, 1926	655	29.0	(7.35)	5.47	7.2				92.0		131				
	August 25, 1926	612	32.6	7.35	5.03	6.5	6.6	(18.0)	142	108	146					
	August 29, 1926	616	34.8	7.35	5.25		7.9		96	96.0						
	September 6, 1926	649	35.8	7.37	4.48						145	128	7			
	September 14, 1926	608	29.1	7.35	5.47	4.0				95.0				289		

Emma P. No. 27	December 27, 1926	509	55.0	7.54	7.85	5.6	10.5	18.2	135	225	127	133	-6.0	323	Blood pressure elevated throughout. No edema. Urine on admission was strongly acid, and contained ammonia and chloride. Was not examined later
	January 4, 1927	550	59.9	7.49	8.28	7.0	10.9	22.0	90	108	144	144	0.0	312	
	January 26, 1926	532	58.9	7.46	8.28	5.0	10.5	15.1	82	65.7	141	138	3.0	289	
	January 30, 1927	503	50.6	(7.45)	9.13	5.3	10.0	16.4		40.0	145	132	13.0	268	
	January 31, 1927	480	57.0	7.47	8.92	7.7	11.1	16.7		98.0	134	132	2.0	283	
	February 10, 1927	538	66.8	7.50	8.06	4.0	11.1	12.6	104	97.3	151	143	8.0	307	
	February 21, 1927	509	38.1	7.31	9.35	6.7	10.4	60.7	187	113	135	132	3.0	297	
	March 10, 1927	538	53.5	7.52	7.85	4.5	11.9	22.4	75	64.0	141	138	3.0	286	
	September 21, 1926	538	22.0	7.12	7.42	9.4	7.2		82	240	(130)	122	8.0	302	
	September 24, 1926	521	28.2	7.07	7.63	7.1				173	130	123	7.0	287	
Robert D. No. 28	September 28, 1926	497	35.3	7.22	8.28	13.4	6.3		87	187	(134)	125	9.0	297	No edema. Blood pressure normal. Urine not examined chemically
	October 11, 1926	544	19.7	7.18	8.28	10.7	7.1		76	229	134	125	9.0	306	
	March 20, 1925	503	9.5	7.23						270		110		270	
	March 21, 1925	474	15.4	7.28		14.1				225		108		279	
	March 22, 1925	514	15.4	7.28						268		115		289	
	March 23, 1925	485	20.6	7.33		17.1			175	260		114		283	
	March 24, 1925	468	22.2	7.35		18.1			153	285		112		286	
	March 25, 1925	462	30.9	7.34		16.8			186	297		114		293	
	September 9, 1927	433	25.0	(7.30)	8.28	16.1		20.3	142	250		112		288	
	September 13, 1927	462	33.4	(7.30)	7.85	17.5	7.7	26.0	122	150	129	121	8.0	279	
June T. No. 31	September 15, 1927	410	39.2	(7.30)	7.42	15.5	7.4		114	190	128	113	13.0	270	Dehydration. Blood pressure elevated. Urine strongly acid, but without ammonia; contained considerable chloride
	December 13, 1927	650	23.5	7.27	8.28	4.0		17.6s	126s	56.0s	145	145	0.0	291	
	December 16, 1927	603	39.1	(7.35)	7.63	4.0		(17.6s)	(126s)	31.0s	143	139	4.0	296	
	December 30, 1927	596	37.4	7.36	5.90	7.5		15.1s	108s	208.0s		135		320	
	January 3, 1928	603	38.5	7.36	6.34	7.4		12.6s	105s	135.0s	133	133		306	
	January 25, 1928	638	40.3	7.37	5.47	7.0	10.2	15.1s	110s	63.0s	148	144	4.0	297	
	January 30, 1928	655	42.4	7.40	5.25	8.7	9.5	15.1s	81s	68.0s	147	148	-1.0	305	
	February 17, 1928	544	44.8	7.40	6.77	9.8	8.7	20.2s	99s	135.0s	140			300	
	January 9, 1928	608	45.3	7.37	6.34	10.0		17.6s	84s	58.0s		144		299	
														323	
Woodrow W. No. 32	December 30, 1927	596	37.4	7.36	5.90	7.5		15.1s	108s	208.0s		135		320	Slight edema. Blood pressure elevated. Urine pH 6+. No ammonia but considerable chloride
	January 3, 1928	603	38.5	7.36	6.34	7.4		12.6s	105s	135.0s	133	133		306	
	January 25, 1928	638	40.3	7.37	5.47	7.0	10.2	15.1s	110s	63.0s	148	144	4.0	297	
	January 30, 1928	655	42.4	7.40	5.25	8.7	9.5	15.1s	81s	68.0s	147	148	-1.0	305	
	February 17, 1928	544	44.8	7.40	6.77	9.8	8.7	20.2s	99s	135.0s	140			300	
	January 9, 1928	608	45.3	7.37	6.34	10.0		17.6s	84s	58.0s		144		299	
														323	
Doris B. No. 33	December 30, 1927	596	37.4	7.36	5.90	7.5		15.1s	108s	208.0s		135		320	Slight edema. Blood pressure elevated
	January 3, 1928	603	38.5	7.36	6.34	7.4		12.6s	105s	135.0s	133	133		306	
	January 25, 1928	638	40.3	7.37	5.47	7.0	10.2	15.1s	110s	63.0s	148	144	4.0	297	
	January 30, 1928	655	42.4	7.40	5.25	8.7	9.5	15.1s	81s	68.0s	147	148	-1.0	305	
	February 17, 1928	544	44.8	7.40	6.77	9.8	8.7	20.2s	99s	135.0s	140			300	
	January 9, 1928	608	45.3	7.37	6.34	10.0		17.6s	84s	58.0s		144		299	
														323	

TABLE 2—Continued

Case	Date	NaCl	CO ₂ content	pH	Protein	Inorganic P	Ca	Lactic acid*	Glucose*	N.P.N.*	Total base	Total determined acid	Undetermined acid	Calculated osmotic pressure	Observed osmotic pressure	Remarks
		mgm. per per cent	vol. per per cent		per cent	mgm. per cent	mgm. per cent	mgm. per cent	mgm. per cent	mgm. per cent	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.		
Margaret Q. No. 34	January 4, 1928	620	44.1	7.27	4.16	9.0		65.6 ^s	968	47.0 ^s	139	145		297	311	Very marked edema. Blood pressure elevated. Urine pH 6 [±] . Small amounts of ammonia, but considerable chloride
	January 6, 1928	626	43.0	7.45	3.31	8.0		21.4 ^s	948	65.5 ^s	137	139		284	310	
	January 11, 1928	585	41.9	7.43	4.59	6.7		32.8 ^s	1158	74.0 ^s		135		283		
	January 23, 1928	626	53.0	7.43	4.16	7.0	9.4	17.6 ^s	1038	53.0 ^s	154			297		
	February 10, 1928	608	51.2	7.41	4.59	7.9	8.5	13.9 ^s	112 ^s	68.5 ^s				298	328	
Mr. T. No. 35	December 14, 1926	585	49.0	7.35	7.85	6.4	9.9	13.3		105		142		320		
Mr. T. No. 36	January 7, 1928	538	34.8	7.35	7.63	10.0		47.8 ^s	160	120		134		297	322	No edema. Blood pressure normal. Urine pH 6+. Very little ammonia, but considerable chloride
January 10, 1928	503	34.1	7.29	8.06	6.3		25.2 ^s	126	134	140	123	17	278	307		
January 12, 1928	519	35.5	7.27	8.92	8.9	11.7	27.7 ^s		140	143	130	13	295	325		
January 16, 1928	509	48.5	7.42	6.98	7.2	11.8	26.5 ^s	137	113	138	130	8	286	324		
January 26, 1928	509	68.0	7.28?	7.42	8.5	10.0	39.1 ^s	110	90.7	150	140	10	291	328		
	February 1, 1928	538	60.0	7.40	7.20	5.0			85	67.0	143	139	5	294	340	

* Whole blood determined except where serum determinations are indicated by postscript (s).

() indicates assumed values.

† N.B. The inorganic sulfate concentration of 10.0 mM. is included.

SUBACUTE AND CHRONIC NEPHRITIS

Protocols

Case 24. Elizabeth Z. Age, 12 years. Admitted to the hospital on January 11, 1925. For three years prior to admission this girl frequently suffered from "head colds" and sore throat, and during the last year seemed to her parents to have been abnormally pale—"waxy" as they described her color. During the six months just preceding admission, her weight had increased from 80 to 106 pounds and one month before admission definite edema of the face and ankles was noted. At this time albumin was found in the urine; no hematuria was noticed. Her systolic blood pressure, however, was 140 mm. Hg. During the two weeks before admission she lost 9 pounds in weight.

When admitted, there was a marked waxy pallor of the skin and moderate generalized edema. The urine contained a large amount of albumin, many hyalin casts, leucocytes and red blood cells. The capillary loops of the nail bed showed irregular constrictions in the arterial portions and marked enlargement and tortuosity of the venous limbs. The eye grounds were normal. The blood pressure was 136/90 mm. Hg. The red blood cell count was 3,750,000. The white blood cell count was 9,600 with a normal differential count. Chemical data at this time and subsequently are to be found in table 2, chart 2. The tonsils were small and ragged and an enlarged mass of adenoids was present. Pus was seen anteriorly and posteriorly in the nose and pansinusitis was diagnosed independently by two nose and throat consultants.

Rest in bed and Karel diet and transfusions were instituted. Gradually edema disappeared and the blood pressure became normal. Hematuria, variable in amount, persisted. Adenoidectomy and tonsillectomy were performed and the nose was treated with mercurochrome drops. Later, stringy muco-pus, from which, however, no organisms grew, was washed from the maxillary antra. Gradually the urine became free from blood, still showing, however, large amounts of albumin and the patient, with increased diet, gained weight and improved generally until April 8, when a nose and throat examination gave evidence of an exacerbation of the infection in the paranasal sinuses. That night, following a chill, the patient vomited, and complained of headache and backache. The temperature, which had been normal, rose sharply to 40.2°C. The next morning there was noticeable edema. The left border of the heart was found out to the nipple line and the rate was rapid and the impulse weak. The blood pressure fell to 88/40 mm. Hg. from 130/86 mm. Hg. The white blood cell count had increased to 24,300. Throughout the day the temperature remained elevated, and the patient continued to complain of occipital headache. Urine obtained in small amount by catheterization was cloudy from hyalin and granular casts. It contained a large amount of albumin, as usual, but very few red blood cells. The next day (April 10) the patient complained of abdominal pain and had one green diarrheal stool. During the following day the patient vomited considerably and had four diarrheal

stools. On April 12 the patient was irrational and had incontinence of feces, and edema seemed a little less. The abdomen was tender and spastic. Red areas, later breaking down and showing a hemolytic streptococcus on culture appeared on one foot and knee. Hemolytic streptococci also grew from a blood culture the following day. The blood pressure by this time had increased to 108/86. Following intravenous glucose, the urinary output increased. On April 14, the patient looked gaunt of face, and edema elsewhere had disappeared, water being lost by vomiting, diarrhea, and slight diuresis. From this time until May 2 the patient gradually improved, receiving six transfusions and intravenous glucose as therapy. The embolic abscesses were opened and drained. The temperature, swinging from 38°C. to 40°C. very gradually fell to normal on May 2. At this time, with very little warning, convulsions and stupor manifested themselves. Following the use of magnesium sulphate, intramuscularly, and other sedatives, uremic manifestations disappeared. From this time until May 20, when the patient was taken home, an elevated irregular temperature was again present, with persisting signs of paranasal sinus suppuration. The urine continued to show a large amount of albumin with gross or microscopic blood. A few weeks after returning home the patient died.

Case 25. Daniel S. In July, 1924, when the patient was 9 years of age, edema and albuminuria were noted for the first time. Edema later disappeared and recurred at intervals, but albuminuria persisted. From February, 1925, until the time of this writing, the patient was followed closely as he developed severe chronic nephritis. A chronic pansinusitis, with occasional acute exacerbations persisted despite treatment for several years.

Case 26. Marie H. This patient was followed either in the hospital or in the out-patient department from January 2, 1924 to the time of her death, October 4, 1926. In September, 1923, following an upper respiratory infection, associated with a very profuse yellow nasal discharge, there occurred almost complete suppression of the urine, drowsiness and edema of the face and ankles. For two months, the edema continued, fluctuating to some extent, despite bed rest and steam baths. On January 2, 1924 a few days after an acute increase of edema, she was admitted to the hospital. The edema noted was generalized. The urine contained a large amount of albumin, a few casts and leucocytes and occasionally a few red blood cells. There was no non-protein nitrogen retention in the blood. Her blood pressure, however, was 180/130. Albuminuric retinitis was present. The phenolsulphonephthalein output on three occasions was 45, 25 and 30 per cent. The specific gravity of the urine collected during a Mosenthal test varied from 1.008 to 1.020. Chronic tonsillitis, enlarged adenoids, rhinological and x-ray evidence of paranasal sinusitis were found. Despite removal of the tonsils and adenoids and radical operative treatment of the paranasal sinusitis, renal insufficiency gradually progressed. Death occurred on October 4, 1926 from cardiac failure.

Case 27. Emma P. Age, 11 years. Diagnosis: Chronic nephritis with hypertension and uremic convulsions.

Case 28. Robert D. Age, 5 years. Diagnosis: severe renal insufficiency, possibly developmental (polycystic kidneys?).

Case 29. Joe B. Age, 6 years. Diagnosis: Chronic nephritis with hypertension and uremia.

Case 30. Leo D. Age, 9 years. This patient was healthy during infancy and early childhood, except for a few mild attacks of sore throat. He had had no contagious diseases. At the age of five years he had an attack of nausea and vomiting, which lasted for several weeks. A physician at that time diagnosed anemia and kidney trouble. Two years later he developed pain in his right side, which recurred frequently. During the year of 1927 he had several attacks of epistaxis. He was kept from school because of weakness, but for the most part remained up and about. Ten days before admission to the hospital on September 9, 1927 he developed persistent vomiting accompanied by pain in his right side. For a short time gross blood was noted in the urine.

When examined in the hospital, he was found under-developed, poorly nourished and moderately dehydrated. He was at times quite irritable but usually was very drowsy. Slight hyperpnea was present. No infection was found in his nose or throat. His heart and lungs were normal. There was fullness and tenderness in the right kidney region. The urine contained a large amount of albumin, many pus cells, a few red blood cells and granular casts. Chemical study of his blood showed a marked deviation from the normal (see table 2). The blood pressure was 110/65.

He lived fifteen days after admission, continuing to vomit practically everything taken by mouth, and becoming progressively weaker. During the 24 hours before death, he was in coma and had frequent convulsions.

At autopsy, in place of the left kidney, was a small amount of tissue, weighing a few grams, which on section proved to be kidney tissue. The right kidney was small, but polycystic with superimposed pyonephrosis. There was very little good kidney tissue remaining (approximately one-tenth the normal amount).

Case 31. June T. Age, 2 years. This patient had seemed well until 17 months of age, when she developed diphtheria. Following this she developed very marked polyuria and polydypsia. She gradually lost weight and appetite. Three weeks before admission she vomited considerably and apparently had some fever. She was frequently very drowsy. When examined at the hospital on December 12, 1927 she was found underdeveloped and much undernourished. Moderate but definite dehydration and hyperpnea was present. In other respects, physical findings were normal. The urine, despite the dehydration, was very dilute, with

pH of approximately 6.5 and with but 2 to 3 mgm. ammonia nitrogen per 100 cc. A considerable amount of albumin was present, and the sediment was composed chiefly of granular casts and white blood cells. There were occasional hyalin casts. The Mosenthal test showed fixation of the specific gravity between 1.001 and 1.004. The concentration of non-protein nitrogen was never more than 240 mgm. per cent. The concentration of chloride varied between 53 mgm. and 99.5 mgm. per cent NaCl. The phenolsulphonephthalein output was 19 per cent in 2 hours.

Polydypsia remained marked and all urine was as described above. Intramuscular injection of pituitrin had no effect on the concentration of the urine. With a high caloric diet, largely milk, she gained weight rapidly. Because of the diminished CO₂ content of the blood (see table 2), large amounts of orange juice, as an additional source of alkali, were given.

Case 32. Woodrow W. Age, 9 years. Diagnosis: Acute hemorrhagic nephritis when first seen which progressed into fatal chronic nephritis.

Case 33. Davis B. Age, 13 years. Findings were those of chronic nephritis with hypertension (blood pressure 210/160) and myocardial damage.

Case 34. Margaret Q. Age, 12 years. Diagnosis: chronic nephritis with edema and hypertension.

Cases 35 and 36. These cases were male adults showing evidence of renal insufficiency associated with prostatic hypertrophy. They are included because of the rather complete blood data which we were able to obtain from them and because they seemed in many respects like the children studied with marked renal insufficiency.

Cases of subacute and chronic glomerular nephritis

When acute glomerular nephritis is not completely recovered from, fibrous tissue replacement of kidney substance involving chiefly the glomeruli results. Autopsy of cases of severe chronic nephritis with evidence of marked renal insufficiency frequently shows very little normal secreting tissue remaining. It is, therefore, natural to assume that the chemical blood picture of severe chronic nephritis is the result of inadequate urinary secretion. It did not seem correct to us, however, to look upon non-protein nitrogen increase in the blood as conclusive evidence of renal insufficiency in cases of acute glomerular nephritis, and the data from the following cases of subacute and chronic nephritis make us feel that non-protein nitrogen increase in

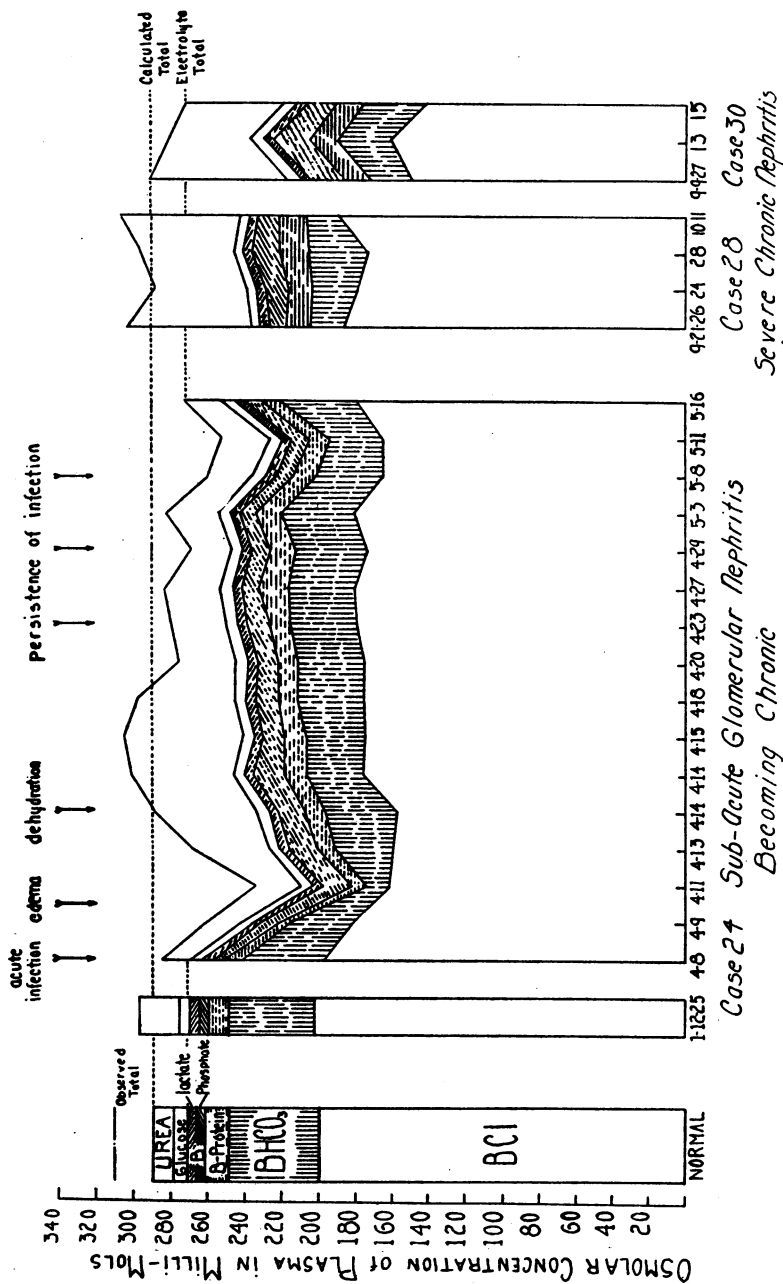


CHART 2. THE OSMOLAR CONCENTRATION OF THE PRINCIPAL ELECTROLYTE AND NON-ELECTROLYTE CRYSTALLOIDS IN THE SERUM OF CASES OF SUBACUTE AND SEVERE CHRONIC NEPHRITIS

the blood has the same significance that it has in acute nephritis. In subacute or chronic nephritis, exacerbation of infection which provokes vomiting, diarrhea, or edema may have the same marked effect in lowering the electrolyte content of the blood and raising the non-protein nitrogen that it has in acute nephritis. In the absence of acute infection, however, the same result may occur more gradually, because of faulty urinary secretion which permits electrolyte to be lost from the blood.

Results of acute infection in sub-acute or chronic nephritis

When a severe exacerbation of infection in the form of paranasal sinusitis and septicemia by a hemolytic streptococcus occurred in case 24, on April 8, 1925, there followed a sudden appreciable reduction in concentration of serum chloride and bicarbonate (table 2, chart 2). If our single determination was correct, protein also suffered a transient but marked fall in concentration.¹ At the same time, edema appeared. Even in the absence of lactic acid and total base determinations, it seems certain that, as calculated, the osmotic pressure due to electrolyte suddenly diminished to a very marked degree; as calculated from 264 mM. osmolar to 204 mM., a diminution of 22.8 per cent. Coincident with the fall in BCl and BHCO_3 , non-protein nitrogen and phosphate increased in the blood, so that the total calculated osmolar concentration dropped somewhat less (17 per cent) than that of the electrolyte alone. On April 14, although the osmolar concentration of electrolyte was still much reduced, the total theoretical osmolar concentration was slightly higher than normal, due largely to increase in non-protein nitrogen. Edema had disappeared by this time. During the next few days, when the total osmolar concentration exceeded slightly the normal,² the reverse of edema, desiccation, was noted. Gradually, however, electrolyte

¹ The low plasma protein value on April 9th, however, is questionable, since determinations a short time previously and subsequently agreed well with each other and were both considerably higher than the value in question.

² As in case 21, the theoretical osmotic pressure was probably greater than the actual value when the non-protein nitrogen reached a very high level. In all probability, the non-protein nitrogen did not overcompensate osmotically for loss of electrolyte as much as our calculation would indicate.

increased and non-protein nitrogen decreased, and again a normal total osmolar concentration was maintained, but with *noticeably less electrolyte and more non-protein nitrogen present in the blood than before the onset of the infection*. Again a normal water balance between blood and tissues was maintained, so that neither edema nor dehydration was present.

In case 26 (table 2) similar changes are encountered in an individual showing evidence of subacute nephritis. Exacerbation of paranasal sinus infection on several occasions, but particularly on October 15, 1925 was followed by loss of electrolyte from the blood and by the appearance of transient edema, which disappeared as a normal total osmolar concentration was established by increase in non-protein nitrogen. In case 25 the effect of marked vomiting on the composition of the blood is shown on February 20, 1928, and February 23, 1928.

The composition of the blood in severe chronic nephritis and the rôle played by altered urinary secretion

After a sufficient length of time, the chemical composition of the blood of our cases of severe chronic nephritis even in the absence of acute infection, showed a reduction of total base, and of such anions as HCO_3' and Cl' , with increase of HPO_4'' and of non-protein nitrogen. In this respect our findings in children are in agreement with those found in adults by Bulger and Peters and their coworkers (8) and Straub (9). Bulger and Peters, however, frequently found much more base than could be accounted for by the sum of the principal acids determined ($\text{Cl}' + \text{HCO}_3' + \text{protein}' + \text{HPO}_4''$). This led them to conclude that some other type of acid was present which replaced bicarbonate and chloride from combination with base. Although admitting the possibility of sulfate increase, as shown frequently to occur in severe nephritis by Dennis (10), they felt that some organic acid was chiefly responsible. As can be noted in our tables, we very rarely found a marked increase in total base over the sum of the same individual acids which Bulger and Peters determined. In addition we frequently determined lactic acid, finding it not increased except when convulsions or circulatory failure with cyanosis occurred, and also ruled out the presence of diacetic acid in appreciable amounts. In our case 25, on February 20, 1928 sulfate was determined and

found to be the equivalent of 10 mM. univalent base. We are inclined to believe, therefore, that in other instances in which undetermined acid seemed unusually large, as for instance cases 26, 28, 30, and 36, sulfuric acid was in all probability chiefly responsible.

In different types of nephritis, Straub studied the blood from an acid-base viewpoint by determining individually the base ions, Na , K , and Ca and the principle acid ions, Cl' and HCO_3' . He did not determine phosphoric, sulfuric, or lactic acid, and did not attempt to calculate the base-binding capacity of the protein. He did, however, besides determining the non-protein nitrogen, determine the actual freezing point and the electrical conductivity of the serum. He frequently found, as did later Bulger and Peters and ourselves, considerable variations in Cl' and HCO_3' ions, usually but not always in opposite directions. Total base ($\text{Na} + \text{K} + \text{Ca}$) he found sometimes normal, but occasionally below or above normal. He also occasionally found an unusual excess of "total" base over the sum of Cl' and HCO_3' ions. This difference in some cases he did not believe due to phosphoric, sulfuric or proteic acid, but to some unknown pathological acid. This type of substance, together with a theoretical non-electrolyte (not non-protein nitrogen) constituted what he termed "mol-rest;" that is, the difference between the calculated and the observed osmotic pressure in millimoles.

Recalculating his most complete data as we have calculated ours, we find the difference between "total" acid and total base no greater than indicated by our data, and very little undetermined osmotically active substances except in one case (no. 7 on July 23, 1923). In this instance, the total base found was 61 mM. greater than the sum of the principal normal acids ($\text{Cl}' + \text{HCO}_3' + \text{protein}'$). This is the only instance in which there was such a marked discrepancy between base and acid. In this case we should have expected very high values for phosphate and sulfate, together perhaps binding 25 to 30 mM. univalent base. In addition, if marked circulatory failure had existed (as it very well might so shortly before death) lactic acid might have accounted for 10 to 15 mM. more base. By accumulation of these three acids, therefore, 35 to 45 mM. of the 61 might have been accounted for. In such an event, no very great amount of unusual acid needs to have been present. If we calculate the total

osmolar concentration from the determined acids, plus the observed non-protein nitrogen, we can account for but 77 per cent of the observed osmotic pressure. If, on the other hand, we allow for the osmotic pressure of the salts indicated by the excess of total base over the acids $\text{Cl} + \text{HCO}_3 + \text{protein}$, assuming even that they were entirely undissociated, and for a normal glucose content, we have no difficulty in accounting for 90 per cent of the observed osmotic pressure. In this case, therefore, there also seems to be little evidence for assuming any significant amount of "mol-rest."

The reduction of BHCO_3 or acidosis in our cases of severe chronic nephritis can only in part be explained by increase in acid such as phosphoric, sulfuric and lactic. Total base, as well as "total" acid was decreased and to about the same degree. It seems certain, therefore, that fixed base was most from the body.

Explanation of the means by which BHCO_3 was lost from the body is to be found in the faulty secretion of the urine. The rôle which the normal kidney plays in assisting in the maintenance of a normal concentration of fixed base in the body fluids has been most clearly shown by Gamble, Ross and Tisdall (1) in their study of the metabolism of fixed base during fasting. Fixed base economy is practiced by the kidney in time of need in two ways: (1) by means of maintaining the acidity of the urine at its maximum (pH 5) thus permitting the excretion of no BHCO_3 from the blood, allowing organic acid to be in part unneutralized, and effecting about a 40 per cent saving of base bound to phosphoric acid; and (2) making and substituting ammonia for the fixed base of the plasma salts of which the anions need to be fully neutralized when excreted. How far the damaged kidney in severe nephritis fails to exert such base economy can be noted in several of our cases. In case 24, for instance, it can be seen that previous to the severe infection beginning on April 28 there was a slight reduction of BHCO_3 in the blood. The urine at this time, however, approached its maximum acidity (pH 6-) and showed a strong qualitative reaction for ammonia. During the period of infection and afterwards, however, despite a sometimes marked reduction of serum BHCO_3 the urine contained little or no ammonia. The kidney was still able to secrete urine of at least approximately normal maximum acidity. In cases 25, 26, 29, 31, and 32 and 35 a similar inability to substitute

ammonia for fixed base was noted, and cases 31, 32 and 36 also showed inability to practice base economy by excreting urine of maximum acidity.

Such inability of the damaged kidney to practice base economy has been demonstrated experimentally by Begun and Munzer (11), Beckman (12) and Linder (13) in a more direct manner. After hydrochloric acid feeding in normal subjects and nephritics, a lesser excretion of ammonia and a greater excretion of fixed base was demonstrated in the urine of nephritics. In our case 28 there evidently had been severe renal insufficiency and "acidosis" for a considerable time and loss of the fixed base of the body seemed to have included also the calcium of the bones, producing a type of "renal" rickets.

The reason for the diminution of serum BCl in the absence of vomiting and edema seems also to lie in the faulty secretion of urine. Although our data on this point is not quantitative, it suggests at least that when there is a tendency towards secretion of large quantities of dilute urine, chloride may be present in the urine in considerable amount despite an abnormally low concentration in the serum. This is analagous to the chloride loss accompanying the polyuria of some cases of diabetes insipidus and diabetes mellitus. It is not inconceivable that such chloride loss in the urine, though relatively little, might eventually deplete the body if the chloride intake were restricted. Because of the inability of the kidney to practice base economy, such loss of chloride would also be attended by loss of fixed base.

It is of particular interest, however, that the osmotic pressure of the blood neither theoretically nor experimentally was found to be reduced, despite this reduction in BHCO_3 and BCl. This was due to the fact that non-protein nitrogen was increased to a point sufficient to make up osmotically for the loss of electrolyte from the blood. This apparent compensation of a non-electrolyte for electrolyte in the maintenance of normal osmotic pressure in cases of chronic nephritis has also been noted in cases of marked vomiting due to pyloric or intestinal obstruction (2), in which electrolytes have been lost from the body and non-protein nitrogen retained. That such a mechanism may exist normally in some of the lower forms of life is suggested by the observation of MacCallum (14) that in the dogfish about one-third

the normal osmotic pressure of the blood is maintained by urea and ammonium salts. This relationship was very similar to that found in cases 22, 23 and 24. It also suggests, to us at least, that the blood changes in chronic nephritis with renal insufficiency do not result primarily from inability of the kidneys to secrete urea, but are caused by their inability to practice base economy by regulating the acidity of the urine and substituting ammonia for the fixed base of the plasma salts when the acid radicals are excreted. This loss of fixed base from the body, leading to a lowering of its BHCO_3 concentration, together with the frequent failure to retain BCl , despite its reduction in the blood, is osmotically compensated for by retention of non-protein nitrogen (chiefly urea).

This view, we realize, will not be easily accepted. Gram (15), for instance, has suggested just the opposite, i.e., excretion of electrolyte in response to retention of non-protein nitrogen. In addition, it has quite generally been thought that the accumulation of non-protein nitrogen in the blood of cases of renal insufficiency resulted from inability of the kidneys to excrete urea. Experimental basis for such a view, however, seems to be lacking and one is forced to wonder why such a freely diffusible substance as urea should meet with such great difficulty in excretion, when other larger and more complex molecules, such as some of the electrolytes and albumin meet no such difficulty. The uncertainty of our knowledge concerning the normal secretion of urine, however, makes it folly for us, at the present time, to attempt to explain how urea is retained in the body. Some direct experiments³ on the effect of administration of various electrolytes and non-electrolytes on the composition of the blood and urine will be conducted and we hope will throw some light on this question.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The composition of the blood serum in glomerular nephritis was studied as follows:

³ The response of case 36 to administration of sodium bicarbonate and sodium chloride and discontinuation of large amounts of water by mouth (and therefore polyuria) was most encouraging. Electrolyte increased in the blood, while urea decreased. The actual osmotic pressure remained constant.

(1) The concentrations of the principal anions, Cl' , HCO_3' , protein, HPO_4'' and lactate, and the actual pH were determined.

(2) Total base was determined directly, and from its value and the sum of the five principal acids determined the concentration of undetermined acid was obtained.

(3) The principal non-electrolyte substances, non-protein nitrogen (urea) and glucose were determined.

(4) The freezing point of the serum was determined and from it the total osmolar concentration of the serum was calculated.

(5) A method of calculating the theoretical total osmolar concentration from the concentration of the principal individual solutes, electrolyte and non-electrolyte, was developed.

In addition, the composition of the urine was studied to some extent, and after correlation of the observed changes in the chemical composition of the blood serum and urine with the clinical symptoms and findings, it was concluded that:

(1) In *acute* hemorrhagic nephritis, marked changes in the chemical composition of the blood occur only when such symptoms as severe vomiting or diarrhea, edema or dehydration, or convulsions occur.

(2) When these changes include a reduction of the total electrolyte content of the blood serum, urea is found increased to such an extent that no reduction in osmotic pressure occurs.

(3) Such urea increase should be considered compensatory and not due to an inability of the kidney to excrete urea.

(4) In *subacute* and *chronic* glomerular nephritis, acute infection causing similar symptoms results in similar changes.

(5) In the absence of such symptoms, however, much the same changes occur, but more gradually, as the result of faulty urinary secretion which includes: (a) failure to practice fixed base economy by substituting ammonia for the fixed base of the plasma salts when the acid radicals are excreted, and (b) a failure to secrete urine of normal maximum acidity, i.e., free from BHCO_3 and (c) a failure to retain BCl in the plasma, and (d) a failure to excrete sufficiently such acids as phosphoric and sulfuric.

(6) The loss of plasma electrolyte due to such faulty urinary secretion is compensated for, osmotically, by retention of urea.

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