

STUDIES ON THE MORNING ALKALINE TIDE OF URINE IN NORMAL PERSONS AND IN PATIENTS WITH NEPHRITIS¹

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INTRODUCTION

The hydrogen-ion concentration of the urine has been the subject of much interesting study; by both pathologist and clinician, especially since the work of Henderson and Palmer. These investigators, using twenty-four hour specimens, studied the hydrogen-ion concentration of the urine both in normal persons and in patients with various diseases, including nephritis. They found that on the average the urine of nephritics was definitely more acid than that of normal persons. It has long been well-known that in normal individuals the urine is more alkaline during the morning. In 1919, Leathes investigated the changes that took place in the morning specimens in cases of acute and subacute nephritis in soldiers, and found that the alkaline tide, which was always normally present, was sometimes reduced or even absent in nephritis.

As there were such good opportunities at the Mayo Clinic to study cases of nephritis, it seemed important to discover what bearing Leathes' test might have on treatment or prognosis. Studies were accordingly undertaken with this object in view.

METHODS

The first series of cases was investigated according to a modification of Leathes' technic (table 1). His method of demonstrating the alkaline tide was as follows:

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A night specimen of urine was collected at 7:00 a.m. for the period from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., and the second specimen at 8:00 a.m., immediately after which 500 cc. of water was given. Hourly specimens were then collected until twelve o'clock. No other fluid or food was taken by the patient after the evening meal preceding the test until its completion. By using suitable indicators, and titrating with tenth-normal acid and tenth-normal alkali, Leathes estimated the alkalinity per cent of the urine. Henderson and Palmer had previously described a similar method for obtaining the ratio of actual to total possible alkali excreted, by titrating with acid and alkali to a known hydrogen-ion concentration. It will be noted that by giving 500 cc. of water the ability of the patient to excrete water could be tested, and the range of specific gravity determined. In all the cases described the amount and specific gravity of each specimen was noted.

A series of buffer solutions were made up according to the method of Henderson and Palmer. At a later date these solutions were made up from Clark's tables. The accuracy of the pH solutions was checked by means of the electro-titration apparatus of Wendt, and in some cases the pH of the urine was estimated by this means as well as by the colorimetric method. The pH was estimated in all cases except those in table 1.

In the course of the work it became apparent that the hydrogen-ion concentration of the urine may change soon after it is voided. It has been shown by Gamble, and by Marshall, that on standing or shaking, carbon dioxide is liberated from the urine, and that the resulting change in pH may be quite marked, especially in the more alkaline urines. It was therefore decided to run a series of urine samples from normal and abnormal cases, estimating the carbon dioxide and phosphates in addition to the properties mentioned. The phosphates were of particular interest as they are largely responsible for the buffer action of the urine.

The carbon dioxide in the various specimens was estimated by van Slyke's method, and the phosphates by Doisy and Bell's colorimetric method. In this group of cases, all males, every precaution was taken to avoid any loss of carbon dioxide, and the consequent change in hydrogen-ion concentration. The urine in each case was passed by means of a funnel which emptied below a layer of toluene into an especially prepared narrow cylinder. This was at once corked, and, care being taken to avoid any shaking, carried to the laboratory in a neighboring room, where the carbon dioxide was at once estimated and the pH determined; immediately after this the alkalinity per cent was estimated. The complete study as outlined was carried out in all the normal cases (table 2) and in certain of the abnormal cases included in tables 3 and 4. The carbon dioxide and phosphate results for both normal and abnormal cases are shown in table 4.

One of the simplest tests for changes in the acid-base equilibrium in the individual was the direct determination of the alkali reserve of the blood plasma by van Slyke's method. It seemed important to determine at the onset whether there were not definite abnormalities in the excretion of acid by the kidneys, with little or no decrease in the carbon dioxide combining power of the blood plasma. Accord-

ingly, in a group of both normal and abnormal cases, I determined this factor, using samples of blood obtained both before water was given and at the time the diuresis should be at its height (table 7).

RESULTS IN NORMAL CASES

The minimal excretion from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 m., after 500 cc. of water had been given at 8:00 a.m., was 260 cc., the maximal 1066 cc., and the average 699 cc. The minimal specific gravity at the height of diuresis varied from 1.003 to 1.012, while the maximal varied from 1.024 to 1.035. The smallest range difference was 0.020 in a case in which the specific gravity varied from 1.012 to 1.032. The greatest range difference was 0.030, the specific gravity varying from 1.005 to 1.035. The average range difference was between 0.024 and 0.025. The initial alkalinity per cent varied from 21 to 56, and the maximal from 64 to 96. In every case there was a definite and unmistakable rise in the alkalinity per cent during the morning, under the conditions of this test. The initial pH ranged from 5.35 to 6.2, with an average of 5.65, the maximal pH from 5.9 to 7.7, the average being 6.95. The phosphates always showed a decrease during the morning, the night specimen always containing the maximal amount. Following the early initial decrease there was a definite though slight increase later in the morning, even though the urine became more alkaline.

The results in these normal cases are in accord with those of Leathes, showing in every case a definite diuresis and a definite alkaline tide during the morning. Leathes also performed the test with varying amounts of water, even less than 500 cc., and found that the change in the alkalinity per cent still persisted. In one normal case I tried the test without administering water, and obtained a normal curve for the alkalinity per cent, and an increase in the pH figures as in the other normal cases in which water was given.

The change in the pH toward the alkaline side during the morning showed a definite but not exact parallelism to the curve of the alkalinity per cent. The carbon dioxide increased relatively with the increase in alkalinity. In every case it was found that a higher pH figure, that is, a change to the alkaline side, was accompanied by relatively increased carbon dioxide, and correspondingly an increased acidity was always accompanied by a fall in the carbon dioxide. In other words,

the carbon dioxid always varied directly with the figure of the hydrogen-ion concentration. This is in accord with the work of Gamble and Marshall. The total carbon dioxid naturally does not follow the pH so strikingly. The decrease in the phosphates during the morning and the later increase correspond to the findings of Fiske.

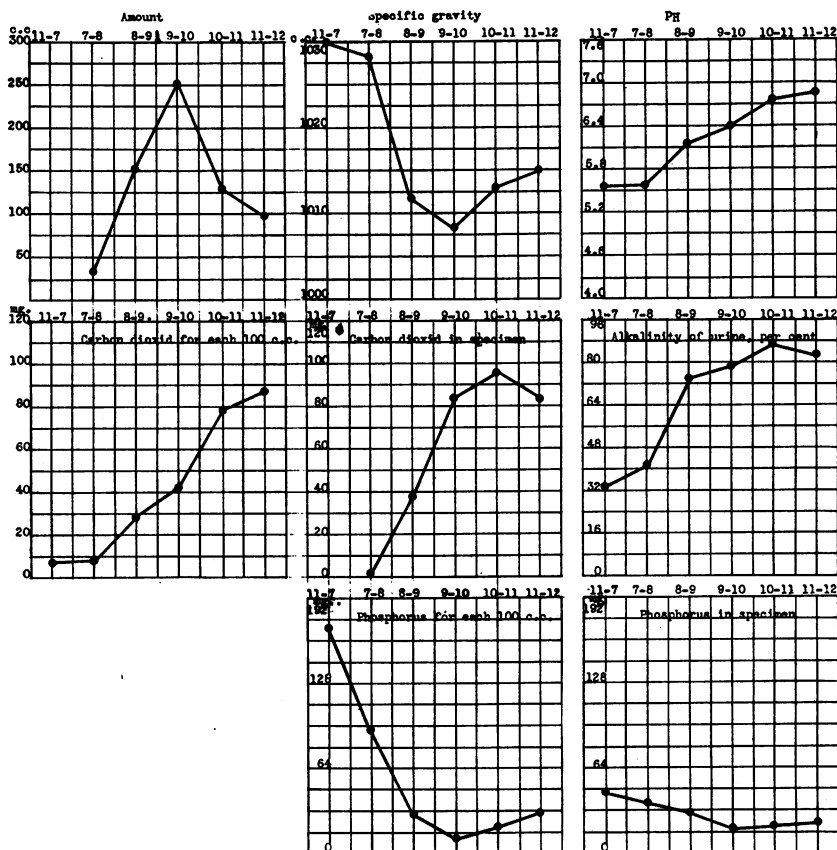


FIG. 1. AVERAGE CURVES FOR TEN NORMAL CASES

The average curves of the various factors determined in normal cases are shown graphically in figure 1.

RESULTS IN ABNORMAL CASES (TABLES 1, 3 AND 4)

Similar types of cases are grouped together and those in which the complete study was made are indicated. From a study of these

tables it will be observed that, while in some cases the test shows that all the factors are within normal limits, in others there are marked deviations from the normal. Leathes divided the cases which reacted abnormally into three groups: (1) those with little or no diuresis, but a normal alkaline tide; (2) those with diuresis, but no alkaline tide, and (3) those with neither a diuresis nor an alkaline tide.

The alkalinity per cent findings which are corroborated by the pH figures show that most of the cases in this series belong in one or another of these groups, although there are very few in group 1. To these three groups of cases, however, I would add a fourth small group, in which there was a definite acid tide during the morning, a reversal of the normal alkaline tide. This group will be discussed later at greater length.

It is to be noted that, even though the urine may react fairly normally with regard to diuresis, alkaline tide, or both, the range of the specific gravity may still be very limited.

The carbon dioxid in all cases, as was to be expected, varied inversely as the acidity.

In cases without an alkaline tide, there is a tendency, which may be very marked, to a fixation of the amount of phosphate excreted each hour. A study of the tables showing the phosphate estimation in the night specimens of normal and abnormal cases brings out an interesting fact. Under the conditions of this test the maximal night concentration of phosphates in abnormal cases, estimated as milligrams of phosphorus for each 100 cc., is less than the minimal normal night concentration. The average figure for the abnormal cases likewise was much below the normal average. The maximal figure of total phosphates for the abnormal cases was the same as for the normals, but this was very exceptional, as the next highest figure, 244.9 mg., is almost the same as the minimal figure for the normals. On the whole, in abnormal cases, the phosphates, both total and relative, in the night specimen were definitely below normal.

DISCUSSION

In studying renal function from a new viewpoint, it is, of course, necessary that the results obtained be correlated with previously accepted standards. In this study seventy-four hospital cases were

investigated, the majority of which were suffering from definite renal disease, although a few other conditions were included. In tables 5 and 6 the main clinical and functional findings are correlated together with the results of the present studies with regard to the morning alkaline tide.

The tendency toward a lack of diuretic response is evident, although in some cases the response is well within normal limits. In comparison with the minimal normal excretion of water, 260 cc., it will be noticed that in a large number of cases this function is limited, sometimes very markedly. The marked tendency toward fixation of the specific gravity in the urine of many of the cases is very striking, especially in table 1.

A study of the alkalinity per cent figures in tables 1 and 3 will show in what a large proportion of cases of chronic glomerulonephritis there is an abolition, either partial or absolute, of the alkaline tide. To be well under the standard set by normal cases, I have considered that all with a difference between the initial and maximal alkalinity per cent of less than 15 should be considered in this class. In figure 2 a number of curves of the cases of this group are shown with the normal curve superimposed. The flattening of the curves is at once apparent.

Very few cases other than those of chronic glomerulonephritis and subacute diffuse nephritis fall below this standard, the exceptions including two cases of malignant hypertension, two of arteriosclerosis, two of focal nephritis, one of gout, one of bilateral polycystic kidneys, and one of bilateral hydronephrosis. This last case, in which there was an acid tide, is discussed with that group.

Figure 3 represents the curves found in a case of chronic glomerulonephritis which was clinically severe (case 49); the patient has since died. In each section of this figure the normal average curve is also given for comparison. As will be observed, the hourly output of urine is almost constant, the specific gravity is virtually fixed, and the alkalinity per cent shows very little change. The pH figure is the same for each specimen and is at a high acid level for urine. All these indicate a fixed acid urine. The carbon dioxide, in accordance with the pH, remains very low and fixed, and the phosphates also show a marked tendency toward fixation.

Thus it would appear that in such cases of chronic and subacute

glomerulonephritis the kidneys excrete a more or less fixed urine with the amounts of the main elements little changed from hour to hour. These facts indicate that the kidneys in such cases constantly excrete their maximal amount, and have lost that reserve excretory function so characteristic of normal kidneys. The kidneys in this case (case 49) were unable, even at the height of their function, to eliminate the normal waste products, which therefore accumulated in the blood, as

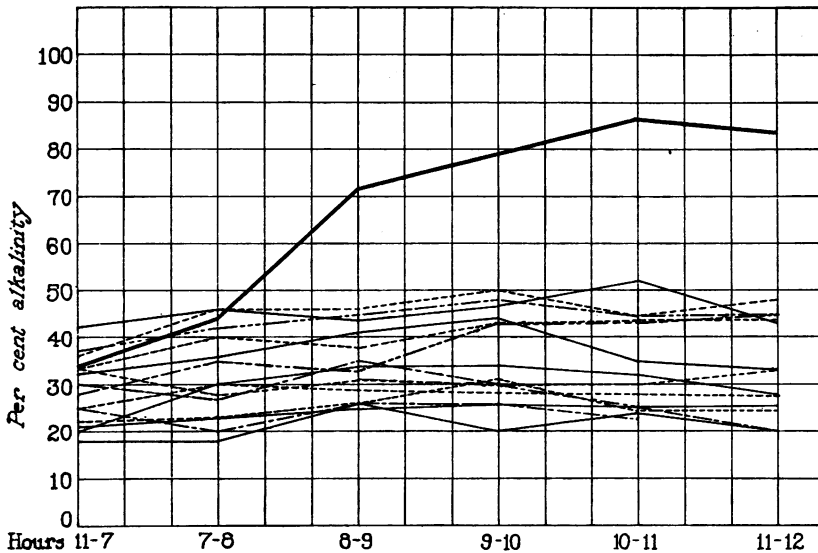


FIG. 2. CURVES IN CASES WITHOUT ALKALINE TIDE CONTRASTED WITH CURVE IN CASE WITH ALKALINE TIDE

———— Composite normal. Other curves, cases without alkaline tide

indicated by a blood urea of 345 mg. for each 100 cc., and a blood creatinin of over 12 mg. for each 100 cc.

By studying the clinical findings given in tables 5 and 6, and by observing the number of patients in groups 1 and 3 who have died, an indication of the severity of some of the cases will be obtained. Included in these groups, of course, are other patients in whom the nephritis was clinically comparatively mild. Although the urinary findings obtained in different cases by this test vary considerably, as would be expected, in general it may be said that only in cases of

seem that the estimation of the carbon dioxide had no practical value. The tendency of the phosphates to be fixed in the cases with no alkaline tide is significant, but the lowering of the phosphate content of the night urine in cases with renal involvement would appear to be even more so. I have never seen any record of such a lowering of the phosphate content in the night urine of nephritic patients, and such an estimation may prove of practical value. However, further investigation along this line must be carried out. Variations may depend on the diet and on the partition of the phosphate excretion between urine and feces. All the abnormal patients in which this was found were on a limited, controlled diet, while the normal subjects were not restricted.

Table 7 gives the results of the estimation of the carbon dioxide combining power of the blood plasma in a number of normal and abnormal cases. In none of the abnormal cases studied in regard to this point were there symptoms suggesting acidosis. As was to be expected, the alkali reserve of the blood of normal subjects showed no significant change during diuresis. In the group of clinical cases of nephritis studied, there was no diminution of the reserve alkalinity of the blood, and, as in the normal cases, there was no significant change during diuresis.

An acid tide was encountered in four cases, and in these there was a definite increase in the acidity during the morning. The first case in which this phenomenon was encountered was case 10. The result was thought at first to be incorrect, but the test was repeated three times without variation in the result. It is true that in this case the specimens were not examined as soon as they were passed, but, as this acid tide was an isolated phenomenon among the large group of cases and as it occurred so persistently, its presence may be considered as established. This case was one of chronic glomerulonephritis. The clinical findings were: blood pressure 150 systolic and 90 diastolic; albumin 2; no casts or red blood cells; blood urea 289 mg. for each 100 cc.; blood creatinin 6.2 mg. for each 100 cc.; no edema, normal eye-grounds and a phenolsulphonaphthalein return of 5 per cent. The patient died later.

This acid tide was next observed in case 70. The diagnosis, bilateral hydronephrosis, was confirmed at necropsy. The albumin varied

from 1 to 3 while the patient was in the hospital; the maximal blood urea was 327 mg. for each 100 cc.; the maximal blood creatinin was 22.6 mg. for each 100 cc.; edema was present; the eye-grounds showed a pallor of the discs but were otherwise negative; there was no return of phenolsulphonephthalein, and the blood pressure was 158 systolic and 94 diastolic. The pH in this and the remaining two cases confirmed the presence of an acid tide.

The third patient (case 40), was a young man, aged twenty-three, with a diagnosis of chronic glomerulonephritis. His urine contained albumin varying from 1 to 3, and microscopically showed a few casts, and a considerable number of red blood cells. The blood urea was 74 mg. for each 100 cc., and the blood creatinin 1.8 mg. for each 100 cc.; edema was present; the eye-grounds were normal; the phenolsulphonephthalein return was 40 per cent, and the blood pressure 194 systolic and 122 diastolic. This patient felt well enough to be up and about. His death occurred shortly after leaving the hospital.

In the fourth case (case 46) the disease diagnosed chronic glomerulonephritis. His blood pressure was 200 systolic and 140 diastolic; his urine showed albumin 1 to 2, a few casts and red blood cells. His blood urea was 154 mg. for each 100 cc., and his blood creatinin 2.7 mg. for each 100 cc. There was slight edema. The retinal arteries showed a reduction of caliber, and there was a suggestion of edema of the discs with a small, diffuse hemorrhage above the left one. The phenolsulphonephthalein return was 5 per cent. This patient had a long and severe illness while here, his condition being considered very critical. The patient lived a short time on a reduced diet, and with limited activities. Following indiscretions he rapidly became worse, and died fourteen months after this test was made.

In this case each specimen was examined at once, and every precaution taken to avoid any change in hydrogen-ion concentration.

A summary of the findings in these four cases will be found in table 8 and figure 4, which gives the curves of the alkalinity per cent figures, the normal curve being superimposed for comparison. They show graphically how little variation there is in the hourly output of urine, the virtually fixed specific gravity, and the unmistakable acid tide. The crossing that occurs between the normal curve and those of the acid tide cases is also striking. The abnormal urine shows first a

relatively high alkalinity but becomes progressively less alkaline until noon, while in normal urine, the reverse is true.

So far I have been unable to find any record of an actual demonstration of an acid tide in the urine. This occurred only in severe cases, and in three of the four cases bacterial infection of the lower urinary tract could be excluded. No alkaline treatment was being employed. I believe, therefore, that such an acid tide occurs only in the end stages of some cases with marked involvement of the renal parenchyma. Thus it would seem, no matter what the apparent

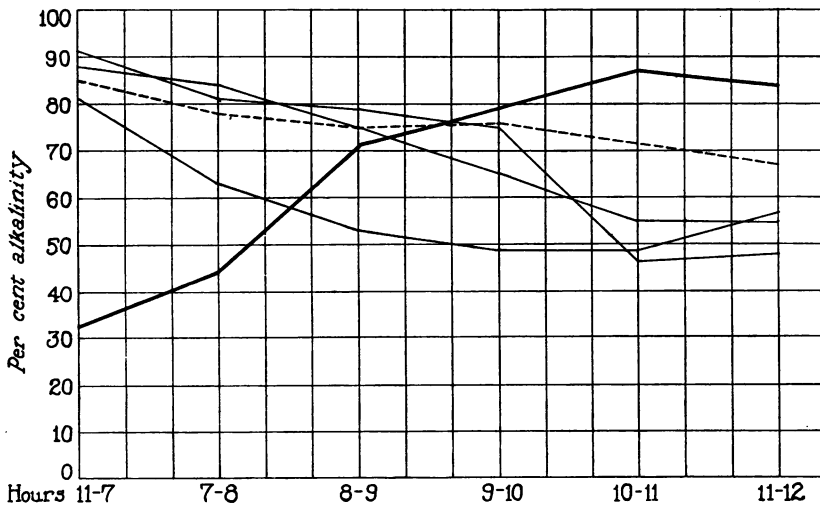


FIG. 4. CURVES IN ACID TIDE CASES COMPARED WITH CURVE IN NORMAL CASE

—— Composite normal. Other curves, cases with acid tide

general condition of the patient at the time of the test, that the presence of an acid tide is of grave prognostic import.

It is suggested that a test similar to Leathes' test might with advantage be used instead of the water test of Volhard and Fahr, for the former shows not only the ability of the kidney to excrete water, and the range of specific gravity, but also the presence or absence of the normal alkaline tide. Any objection to a titration test could be overcome by substituting for the estimation of the alkalinity per cent the determination of the pH as done by Henderson and Palmer. Moreover, patients find it much easier to take the comparatively small

TABLE 1
The alkaline tide of the urine and associated factors in abnormal cases

Case	Date	Urine																	
		Amount					Specific gravity					Alkalinity							
		Morning				Total	Morning				Night	Morning				Night			
		7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	8-12	11-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	11-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12
Chronic glomerulonephritis																			
1*	1920	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent
11-3		390	33	43	52	45	57	197	1.014	1.012		1.012	1.012	37	42	45	48	45	45
2*	12-11	950	44	65	92	110	73	340	1.008	1.010	1.011	1.011	1.009	46	64	62	68	63	70
3	12-9	220	440	60	53	105	91	309	1.014	1.012	1.012	1.012	1.013	30	23	35	23	29	28
4*	12-15	465	55	100	95	92	70	357	1.010	1.009	1.008	1.008	1.009	33	28	31	30	30	33
5*	11-16	380	38	45	45	36	32	158	1.012	1.011	1.011	1.013	1.012	52	63	69	71	63	67
	1921																		
	1-27	325	38	35	44	55	47	181	1.009	1.009	1.008	1.008	1.007	87	88	90	91	95	91
6*	5-4	716	48	47	66	77	27	217	1.010	1.012	1.010	1.009	1.010	71	59	65	65	72	63
	2-12	216	38	30	30	34	28	122	1.012					49	52	56		51	50
	2-15	320	53	52	63	53	54	222	1.013	1.012	1.011	1.010	1.009	67	73	72	69	72	56
7	2-17	255	24	38	48	25	12	123	1.013	1.012	1.009	1.010	1.010	45	51	53	50	46	41
	1920																		
	11-24	325	40	42	128	77	44	291	1.013			1.005	1.006	97	89	81	82	68	63
8	11-26	248	36	45	130	34	35	244	1.017			1.004		82	73	75	78	85	75
	11-18	190	30	26	65	27	24	142	1.018			1.007		75	68	70	70	62	64
9	12-7								1.011	1.017	1.004	1.004		73	56	76	80	82	82
	11-18	885	155	125	130	130	113	498	1.007	1.007	1.008	1.007	1.007	36	46	46	50	45	48

TABLE 1—Continued

Case	Date	Urine																			
		Amount					Specific gravity					Alkalinity									
		Morning					Morning					Morning									
		Night	Total				Night	Morning				Night	Morning								
		11-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	8-12		11-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	11-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12
Nephrosis																					
	1920	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.								per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent
29	12-17	280	91	41	46	50	45	182	1.025	1.026	1.024	1.021	1.022	1.024	1.024	58	74	90	92	93	91
Chronic endocarditis with cardiac insufficiency																					
	1921	3-2	155	24	38	75	74	25	212	1.020	1.018	1.016	1.007	1.007	1.014	36	92	93	93	82	77
Focal nephritis																					
31	3-11	237	22	32	46	21	23	122	1.019	1.018	1.017	1.015	1.017	1.019	1.019	22	22	42	50	39	37
32	1-25	255	30	65	70	36	34	205	1.015	1.015	1.009	1.007	1.011	1.012	20	30	34	34	32	28	
Gout																					
33	{	1-26	165	15	95	50	70	40	255	1.019		1.008	1.007	1.009	1.013	27	37	37	33	41	42
		2-1	135	16	11	7	12	12	42	1.021					30	35	37	32	44	36	
Bilateral polycystic kidneys																					
34	1-28	265	84	33	34	42	46	155	1.013	1.012	1.011	1.011	1.011	1.011	22	23	26	31	25	25	

* Patients who died.

TABLE 2
The alkaline tide of the urine and associated factors in normal persons

		Urine																									
Case	Date	Amount						Specific gravity						Alkalinity						pH							
		Morning					Total	Night	Morning					Night	Morning					Night	Morning						
		7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12			cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.		per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent		per cent	per cent	per cent				
A	1-5	148	24	135	438	125	75	773	1.030	1.029	1.008	1.003	1.010	1.016	21	26	70	85	93	95	5.4	5.6	6.1	6.4	7.3	7.7	11-12
	1-28	187	30	55	304	122	86	567							25	28	87	86	92	93	5.4	5.4	6.8	6.8	6.98	7.25	10-11
B	1-9	164	18	100	240	62	196	598	1.034		1.016	1.011	1.020	1.012	37	35	65	80	94	85	5.7	5.6	6.0	6.0	7.3	6.9	9-10
C	1-21	210	15	25	62	208	88	383	1.035	1.032	1.032	1.018	1.005	1.012	56	76	76	85	80	71	6.2	6.2	6.2	7.1	6.8	6.7	8-9
D	1-17	298	76	380	484	102	100	1066	1.024	1.018	1.004	1.003	1.013	1.017	38	40	74	79	94	96	5.7	5.6	6.1	6.2	7.0	7.5	7-8
E	1-27	154	30	136	220	140	106	602	1.027	1.030	1.006	1.008	1.010	1.012	23	61	86	91	93	90	5.3	5.4	6.75	6.55	6.8	7.5	10-11
F	2-4	235	24	70	88	60	42	260	1.032		1.018	1.012	1.020	1.022	35	39	48	48	66	64	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.2	9-10
G	3-27	254	62	226	254	74	72	626	1.028	1.032	1.010	1.008	1.020	1.020	26	41	75	76	77	70	5.4	5.7	6.35	6.4	6.75	6.6	8-9
H	4-2	182	34	152	176	102	68	498	1.030	1.030	1.010	1.007	1.016	1.020	41	62	82	93	96	84	5.65	6.05	6.4	6.8	7.3	7.25	11-12

	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2
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TABLE 3—Continued

		Urine																							
Case	Date	Amount				Specific gravity				Alkalinity				pH											
		Morning				Total	Morning				Night	Morning				Night									
		Night	7-8	8-9	9-10		10-11	11-12	8-12																
Bilateral hydronephrosis																									
70	3-31	165	130	65	14	34	52	165	1.007	1.008	1.009	1.008	1.008	91	80	79	75	46	48	7.2	6.85	6.8	5.9	5.8	
Arteriosclerosis																									
71†	2-21	142	98	90	82	106	56	334	1.025	1.024	1.014	1.006	1.007	1.008	24	28	31	38	38	32	5.0	5.0	5.15	5.25	5.1
Achyilia gastrica																									
72	5-13	382	96	330	275	226	77	908	1.014	1.011	1.005	1.005	1.007	1.013	70	98	96		97	96	6.8	7.6	7.0	7.0	7.1
	5-15	368	78	140	332	98	105	675	1.015	1.015	1.014	1.005	1.008	1.010	47	88	94	94	95	94	5.9	6.8	6.9	6.85	6.9
Polyuria																									
73	3-31	140	15	34	155	185	60	434	1.015		1.012	1.004	1.005	1.011	25	32	69	67	64	76	5.4	5.8	6.5	5.85	5.9
Orthostatic albuminuria																									
74	3-25	122	27	110	275	65	33	483	1.021	1.018	1.007	1.003	1.011	1.015	23	46	86	92	98	96	5.2	5.8	6.8	6.8	7.6

* Patients who died.

† Cases in which the complete study was made.

amount of water required in this test. The estimation of the carbon dioxid in the specimens would not seem to be of practical value since it varies in amount directly as the hydrogen-ion concentration.

CONCLUSIONS

1. In this paper are reported the results of investigation of the night specimens and hourly morning specimens of urine in a series of normal and abnormal subjects. At 8:00 a.m., 500 cc. of water was given on an empty stomach. Most of the abnormal cases were of renal lesions.

2. Normal subjects, as demonstrated by Leathes and confirmed by my experiments, always show a diuresis and an increase in alkalinity during the morning, while abnormal subjects may react like the normal, or show limitation, either partial or complete, of either or both.

3. In addition, among the abnormal subjects examined, there were a few with a high initial alkalinity and an acid tide during the morning.

4. The specific gravity may show little variation even with a diuresis within normal limits, an alkaline tide, or both.

5. Cases with no alkaline tide are usually severe clinically. An acid tide is of grave prognostic import.

6. The curve of the pH figures parallels that of the alkalinity per cent.

7. In the cases reported here, both normal and abnormal, a higher pH figure was always accompanied by increased relative carbon dioxid, and a more acid urine by a decrease in carbon dioxid.

8. The phosphates of normal subjects, as demonstrated by Fiske, have an initial drop followed by a late rise during the morning. In the present series the night specimen was found to have a much lower phosphate content in abnormal than in normal subjects.

9. The results of these investigations show that this test may be of clinical value from the point of view of diagnosis and prognosis.

TABLE 4
Carbon dioxide and phosphorus content of urine in normal and abnormal subjects

Case	Date	Carbon dioxide										Phosphorus														
		Milligrams in specimen										Milligrams for each 100 cc.														
		Night					Morning					Night					Morning									
		11-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	11-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	11-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	11-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	
Normal																										
A {	1-5	10.0	17.4	21.0	69.0	107.8	14.7	23.5	91.9	86.3	80.8															
	1-28	5.0	3.1	66.8	38.1	78.5	124.6	9.2	0.9	36.8	115.9	95.8	107.1	161.8	98.5	40.2	5.0	12.9	35.7	302.6	29.6	22.1	15.2	15.7	30.8	
	1-9	5.9	3.2	22.4	68.1	88.8	55.4	9.6	0.6	22.4	43.4	55.0	108.5	212.8	14.3	5.1	16.3	12.9	348.9			14.3	12.2	10.1	125.3	
	1-21	17.4	32.5	30.7	65.4	45.4	38.3	36.4	4.9	7.7	40.5	94.4	33.7	194.2	82.0	34.4	81.9	31.6	407.8			20.5	21.4	24.8	27.8	
	1-17	7.7	5.1	19.1	28.8	136.5	203.2	23.0	3.9	72.7	129.3	139.3	203.2	133.7	43.1	20.0	2.0	8.9	13.9	398.4	32.8	76.0	9.6	9.1	113.9	
	1-27	5.0	5.0	47.8	44.2	53.1	62.9	7.7	1.5	65.0	97.2	74.4	66.7	154.3	113.1	13.7	5.4	12.1	23.0	237.6	33.9	18.6	11.9	16.9	24.3	
	2-4	6.6	4.0	8.4	7.5	18.1	13.7	15.6	1.0	5.8	6.6	10.8	5.8	156.3	90.9	39.0	23.2	42.0	45.4	367.2	21.8	27.3	20.4	25.2	19.0	
	3-27	6.7	7.6	34.9	39.0	43.1	40.4	16.9	4.7	78.9	99.1	31.9	29.0	158.7	119.0	20.8	15.4	44.2	52.6	403.2	73.8	47.1	37.2	32.7	37.9	
H	4-2	6.7	19.1	36.8	87.7	221.4	175.4	12.2	6.5	55.9	154.2	225.8	119.3	224.7	98.0	12.6	10.5	26.3	39.4	409.0	33.3	16.1	18.4	26.8	26.8	
Chronic glomerulonephritis																										
46†	2-3	33.9	18.9	18.0	11.9	12.8	15.4	86.2	6.6	6.3	4.7	4.0	5.2	66.6	57.8	47.6	44.0	41.0	42.5	169.3	20.2	16.6	17.6	13.1	14.3	
47†	2-7	9.5	31.4	87.1	149.0	188.8	174.2	17.5	10.6	39.2	86.4	84.9	87.1	115.2	51.4	37.4	27.6	31.2	45.0	212.0	17.5	16.8	16.0	14.0	22.5	
48†	2-10	4.7	4.7		4.7	3.8	2.9	11.2	3.8		3.1	1.8	1.4	80.0	72.4		62.1	60.9	58.8	190.4	57.9		41.0	29.2	28.2	
49**	2-15	5.0	5.0	5.0	13.1	6.8	5.9	15.8	2.7	3.3	5.8	3.6	3.4	34.4	33.3	30.6	30.7	30.9	31.8	108.1	18.0	19.9	13.5	14.2	18.5	
50**	2-24	14.0	23.9	45.5	37.1	17.6	10.4	40.0	10.8	25.5	14.8	6.2	3.3	80.6	54.3	31.3	45.5	59.5	94.6	68.5	24.4	17.5	18.2	20.8	23.9	

Nephrosis

54†	3-7	27.4	27.4	25.6	48.4	50.2	53.7	80.0	41.1	21.5	36.3	35.1	27.9	65.4	58.1	18.4	21.0	25.3	34.7	190.8	87.2	15.4	15.8	17.7	18.1
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Malignant hypertension

58†	2-8	4.9	6.7	10.2	19.1	6.7	6.7	9.8	1.7	8.4	35.6	2.8	2.2	97.0	97.0	27.7	15.4	48.0	75.7	194.0	25.2	24.4	28.6	20.2	25.8
59†	3-1	19.4	26.6	14.9	5.3	12.2	5.0	85.5	35.9	6.7		9.8		92.9	50.6	45.9	51.5	46.3	62.5	408.9	68.3	20.6		37.0	

Focal nephritis

68†	2-27	12.0	27.5	41.0	33.5	16.7	9.5	16.0	8.8	18.1	8.7	4.0	1.7	125.0	85.5	38.5	51.0	90.9	105.2	142.5	27.4	16.9	13.3	31.8	18.9
69†	3-22	6.8	7.7	9.4	11.2	5.9	5.0	20.4	2.9	7.6	10.3	3.3	2.1	81.6	46.7	23.8	21.3	34.0	52.6	244.9	17.8	19.0	19.6	19.0	22.1

Arteriosclerosis

71†	2-21	13.1	8.4	14.9	12.1	11.2	13.0	18.6	8.3	13.5	9.9	11.9	7.3	104.2	95.4	45.9	16.7	21.7	32.1	147.9	93.5	41.8	13.7	23.0	17.9
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* Patients who died.

† Cases in which complete study was made.

TABLE 5
Clinical and functional findings in abnormal subjects

Case	Date	Clinical findings						Findings in test					
		Blood pressure	Albumin	Maximal blood urea	Maximal blood creatinin	Edema	Eye-grounds	Phenolsulphone-phthalein	Diuresis	Specific gravity range	Alkalinity		
											Initial	Maximal	
Chronic glomerulonephritis													
1*	1920 11-3	218	1-3	119	5.6	0	Marked retinal edema with many hemorrhages and exudates Edema of disc and retina with many hemorrhages and exudates Arteriosclerosis Normal One hemorrhage; arterial changes	5	197	1.012-1.014	37	48	
2*	12-11	230	2-3	173	4.9	+		10	340	1.008-1.011	46	70	
3	12-9	190	2-3	41	1.7	0		35	309	1.012-1.014	30	35	
4*	12-15	180	2	231	7.2	0		5	357	1.008-1.010	33	33	
5*	11-16	196	2-4	139	7.4	+	10	158	1.011-1.013	52	71		
	1921 1-27						5	191	1.007-1.009	87	95		
6*	5-4							197	1.009-1.012	71	72		
	2-12	175	2-3	88.6	2.4	0	20	122		49	56		
	2-15							222	1.009-1.013	67	72		
7	2-17							123	1.009-1.013	45	53		
	1920 11-24	140	1-3	44	1.58	+	45	291	1.005-1.013	97	97		
	11-26							244	1.004-1.017	82	85		
8	11-18							142	1.007-1.018	75	75		
	12-7	158	2-4	30	1.39	+	40		1.004-1.017	73	82		
9	11-18	135	2-3	169	5.9	0	15	498	1.007-1.008	36	50		

10*	1921 1-4	150	2	289	6.2	0	Normal	5	305	1.007-1.008	Acid tide
	1-6								265	1.007-1.009	Acid tide
	1-8								270	1.007-1.008	Acid tide
	1-12								155	1.008-1.010	Acid tide
11*	1-31	160	2-3	84	2.48	0	Edema of nerve with few hemorrhages	20	175	1.012-1.013	36 44
12	2-7	120	1-2	128	5	0	Slight arteriosclerosis	10	260	1.007-1.008	51 72
13	2-15	220	0-1	36.2	1.35	Slight	Marked arterial changes	55	254	1.003-1.020	14 23
14*	2-18	240	1-2	75.6	2.59	+	Discs swollen, many hemorrhages and exudates	10	253	1.007-1.010	59 71
15	3-4	165	1-2	51	2.1	0	Normal	30	270	1.006-1.012	21 26
16*	3-10	165	1-2	186	11.2	0	Edema of discs; few exudates	5	307	1.006-1.007	24 26

Malignant hypertension

17	1-25	230	1	53	1.54	0	Arterial changes with hemorrhages	45	514	1.003-1.013	67 86
18*	2-5	220	1-2	4.8	2.0	0	Violent neuroretinitis; nerve heads swollen; hemorrhages and exudates	30	101	1.015-1.017	28 45
19*	2-15	210	1	40	1.7	0	Arterial changes; edema of nerve and retina; few exudates and hemorrhages	45	256	1.005-1.017	16 38
20	2-19	200	0-1	38.7	1.37	0	Marked arterial changes with few exudates and hemorrhages	60	78	1.023-1.028	24 46

Arteriosclerosis with renal changes

21	1920 11-30	152	2-3	35	1.6	0	Old inflammatory changes; marked arteriosclerosis	60	454	1.003-1.020	38 85
22	1921 2-25	150	1	32	1.36	Slight	Marked arteriosclerosis	35	284	1.003-1.011	32 44

TABLE 5—Continued

Case	Date	Clinical findings						Findings in test				
		Blood pressure	Albumin	Maximal blood urea	Maximal blood creatinin	Edema	Eye-grounds	Phenolsulphone-phthalein	Diuresis	Specific gravity range	Alkalinity	
										Initial	Maximal	
Arteriosclerosis with renal changes—Continued												
23	1920 1-25	240	2-3	45.6	2.02	+	Marked arterial changes; edema of nerve and retina; hemorrhages and exudates	45 per cent	308	1.003-1.006	66 per cent	84
24	3-2	190	1	56.8	1.43	0	Arteriosclerosis with hemorrhages	60	518	1.002-1.015	63	93
25	2-4	165	1	38	1.5	Slight	Normal	50	265	1.005-1.020	15	67
Essential hypertension												
26	1920 1-6	180	0-2	31.2	1.53	Slight	Arteriosclerosis	40	348	1.002-1.021	34	54
27	1921 2-17	150	0	45.9	1.43	0	Normal	60	368	1.002-1.019	18	75
28	3-8	170	0-1	27		0	Moderate arterial changes	65	249	1.011-1.020	39	98
Nephrosis												
29	1920 12-17	130	2-4	36	1.5	+	Normal	40	182	1.021-1.026	58	93
Chronic endocarditis with cardiac insufficiency												
30	1921 3-2	150	1-2	26	1.47	+	Normal	30	212	1.007-1.020	36	93

Focal nephritis

31	3-11	132	2-3	41.9	1.66	0	Normal	60	122	1.015-1.019	22	50
32	1-25	140	1-2	32	1.8	0	Normal	72	205	1.007-1.015	20	34

Gout

33	1-26 2-1	150	0-1	49	1.86	Slight	Normal	62	255 42	1.007-1.019	27 30	42 44
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Bilateral polycystic kidneys

34	1-28	150	1-2	47.5	1.76	0	Normal	61	155	1.011-1.013	22	31
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* Patients who died.

TABLE 6
Clinical and functional findings in abnormal subjects showing fluctuation of alkalinity and hydrogen-ion concentration

Case	Date	Clinical findings						Findings in test							
		Blood pressure	Albumin	Maximal blood urea	Maximal blood creatinin	Edema	Eye-grounds	Phenolsulphone-phthalein	Diuresis	Specific gravity, range		Alkalinity		pH	
										Initial	Maximal	Initial	Maximal	Initial	Maximal
Chronic glomerulonephritis															
1921								per cent		1.009-1.017	per cent	per cent			
35	3-18	210	1-2	50.6	2.68	0	Marked arterial changes with edema and hemorrhages	30	114	1.009-1.017	24	30	5.3	5.2	
36*	4-27	194	1-2	198	8.92	0	Arteriosclerosis	10	194	1.009-1.012	42	52	5.5	5.8	
37	4-27	260	1	47.8	1.77	+	Arterial changes, recent edema, hemorrhages and exudates	30	258	1.008-1.021	22	48	5.4	5.8	
38	4-28	222	3-4	110.5	7.06	+	Fundi anemic	20	287	1.012-1.014	33	44	5.1	5.4	
39	4-29	120	1	33.6	1.36	+	Normal	55	517	1.004-1.018	19	72	5.3	6.8	
40*†	5- 8	192	1-3	74	1.8	+	Normal	40	144	1.011-1.014	81	Acid tide	7.2	Acid tide	
41	5-11	210	1-3	51	1.76	+	Arteriosclerosis	45	111	1.017-1.019	19	33	4.9	5.1	
42*	5-25	170	1-3	101	2.9	Slight	Acute neuroretinitis with edema, exudates and old hemorrhages	30	211	1.009-1.013	35	42	5.0	5.4	
43	5-30	175	1-2	41.5	1.6	+	Pigmentation of retina; slight arteriovenous compression	65	355	1.003-1.023	28	87	5.1	6.9	
44*	5-31	210	1-3	64	1.8	0	Marked retinitis with exudates and hemorrhages	35	157	1.013-1.017	26	42	5.0	5.3	
45*	6-30	242	0-2	56	1.9	+	Intense neuroretinitis with exudates and hemorrhage	40	113	1.006-1.015	72	81			

1922	46†	2-3	200	1-2	154	2.7	+	Reduced caliber retinal arteries; old hemorrhages	15	141	1.014-1.016	69	Acid tide	6.9	Acid tide
	47†	2-7	166	3	22		+	Normal	55	198	1.019-1.031	45	93	5.8	7.0
	48†	2-10	100	1	62	1.7	+	Acute retinitis with edema, hemorrhages and exudates	30	162	1.018-1.020	16	19	4.55	4.55
	49*†	2-15	200	1-2	345	12.3	0	Arterial changes with edema, few hemorrhages and old exudates	0	213	1.010-1.012	31	41	5.3	5.3
	50†	2-24	130	1-2	28		+	Normal	55	163	1.011-1.018	37	78	5.4	6.6

Subacute diffuse nephritis

1921	51	3-12	130	2	69	2.1	0	Normal	50	272	1.008-1.013	18	26	4.7	4.7
	52	6-10	120	0-3	64	1.6	+	Normal	45	119	1.025-1.028	48	42	5.7	5.5

Nephrosis

1922	53	3-12	138	2-4	26.8	1.5	+	Normal	40	236	1.005-1.014	60	97	5.7	7.38
	54†	3-7	110	1	37	1.5	0	Normal	50	281	1.010-1.016	36	73	5.9	6.4

Malignant hypertension

1921	55	3-18	220	1	33.8	1.25	0	Slight arterial changes	45	110	1.009-1.027	30	35	5.4	5.5
	56*	4-21	260	2	46	1.48	0	Severe neuroretinitis with hemor- rhages and exudates	50	299	1.008-1.028	36	88	5.7	6.9
	57*	4-26	240	1	67	1.97	0	Arterial changes with retinitis, exudates and hemorrhages	35	500	1.004-1.015	20	73	4.8	5.9
1922	58†	2-8	235	1-3	51	1.6	0	Arterial changes, slight edema, exudates	45	344	1.005-1.018	36	56	5.5	6.1
	59*†	3-1	234	1-3	30		0	Arterial changes, edema, exu- dates and hemorrhage	30	138	1.016-1.018	38	66	5.3	6.1

Arteriosclerosis

	1922	108	0-1	26		0	Normal	50	334	1.006-1.025	24	38	5.0	5.25
71	2-21	108	0-1	26		0	Normal	50	334	1.006-1.025	24	38	5.0	5.25

Achyilia gastrica

	1921	174	0	41	1.3	0	Normal	50	908	1.005-1.014	70	96	6.8	7.6
72	5-13	174	0	41	1.3	0	Normal	50	908	1.005-1.014	70	96	6.8	7.6
72	5-15	174	0	41	1.3	0	Normal	50	575	1.005-1.015	47	95	5.9	7.2

Polyuria

	1921	130	0-1	25.4	1.39	0	Normal	65	434	1.004-1.015	25	76	5.4	5.9
73	3-31	130	0-1	25.4	1.39	0	Normal	65	434	1.004-1.015	25	76	5.4	5.9

Orthostatic albuminuria

	1921	120	0-2	45	1.45	0	Normal	60	483	1.003-1.021	23	98	5.2	7.6
74	3-25	120	0-2	45	1.45	0	Normal	60	483	1.003-1.021	23	98	5.2	7.6

* Patients who died.

† Cases in which complete study was made.

TABLE 7

Carbon dioxid combining power of blood plasma

Case	Diagnosis	Before diuresis	After diuresis
A	Normal	58.9	56.0
B	Normal	59.8	55.1
C	Normal	62.6	59.8
D	Normal	60.7	60.7
E	Normal	67.3	67.3
F	Normal	67.3	67.3
G	Normal	59.6	59.6
46	Chronic glomerulonephritis	71.5	70.6
47	Chronic glomerulonephritis	55.9	55.9
48	Chronic glomerulonephritis	61.4	63.3
54	Nephrosis	50.8	50.8
58	Malignant hypertension	66.0	67.8
59	Malignant hypertension	62.6	62.6
68	Focal nephritis	77.0	74.0
69	Focal nephritis	67.3	67.3
71	Arteriosclerosis	71.6	67.8
		69.6	69.6

TABLE 8
Findings in cases with an acid tide*

Case	Urine																			
	Date	Amount				Specific gravity				Alkalinity				pH						
		Morning				Night	Morning				Night	Morning				Night	Morning			
		11-7	7-8	8-9	9-10		10-11	11-12	7-8	8-9		9-10	10-11	11-12						
Chronic glomerulonephritis																				
10	1921	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	cc.	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent		
	1-4	460	92	95	65	80	65	1.003	1.008	1.007	1.008	1.008	1.007	98	97	94	85	71		
	1-6	245	100	75	60	60	70	1.009	1.009	1.008	1.008	1.007	1.008	93	95	73	62	52		
	1-8	335	64	55	60	75	80	1.003	1.008	1.007	1.007	1.007	1.007	98	98	92	69	58		
	1-12	350	41	47	40	31	37	1.009	1.009	1.008	1.009	1.009	1.010	60	44	41	44	39		
Bilateral hydronephrosis																				
70	3-31	165	130	65	14	34	52	1.007	1.008	1.009		1.008	1.008	91	81	79	75	47		
														48	7.2	6.85	6.8	5.9		
																		5.8		
Chronic glomerulonephritis																				
40	5-8	292	40	48	48	32	16	1.014	1.014	1.011	1.011	1.013		81	64	53	49	49		
																		57		
																		5.5		
46	1922	2-3	254	35	35	40	32	34	1.016		1.015	1.014	1.015	69	71	69	65	67		
																		6.1		
																		6.0		

* All patients died.

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