ART. I.—On Neurotic Albuminuria and Hæmaturia; more especially in relation to Thermic Neuroses and to Taking Cold. By Thomas Laycock, M.D., &c.; Physician-in-Ordinary to the Queen for Scotland; and Professor of Medicine and the Practice of Physic in the University of Edinburgh.

For several years past I have attempted to show what an important part morbid conditions of the nervous system play in both functional and structural diseases of organs and tissues, and, more especially, that most fundamental element of the nervous system of all its divisions, the trophic. And by the term trophic, I do not mean the vaso-motor system only, but use it in a wider meaning to indicate that larger system, which including the vaso-motor as a higher and special evolution of it, presides over the primary, vegetative, or organic processes of nutrition, so as to modify the chemical conditions of the blood corpuscles, lymph, and tissues in general, as well as the contraction of the blood-vessels and the distribution of the blood. And in these processes must be included not only all that happens chemically in plants, and in the tissues themselves, but also results such as the production of heat, of the vis insita of muscles, and of the various kinds of vis nervosa, all which depend upon bio-chemical processes that are regulated by the nervous system. Of all these the production of heat is the most fundamental.
and essential, because without a due temperature vital processes cease, of whatever kind they be. Hence the universal influence of heat and cold in the causation of disease and in cure.

Amidst the various theories current, which are either humoral, anatomical, or mechanical, this neurotic element in causation is by some pathologists wholly omitted, or, if admitted by others, is imperfectly observed and understood. In renal diseases there is hardly any recognition of the influence of the nervous system in causation, although there is hardly a case in which that is not manifested. My friend, Dr. Warburton Begbie, has recently detailed instructive instances of neurotic albuminuria in connexion with the symptoms of Graves’ disease,* and I propose in this paper to show the connexion of the thermal portion of the trophic nervous system with transient albuminuria and haematuria, and in special reference to “taking cold.”

It is one of the most instructive facts in the history of medicine that, while what is termed “taking cold” is so universally recognized as the most common of the general causes of disease, yet, from the neglect of trophic pathology, the theories of the process are so unsatisfactory that they have no systematic applications to practice. An illustration of this statement is afforded by the discussion at a meeting of the Clinical Society of London, when Dr. Geo. Johnson, well known for his valuable researches into the pathology and pathological anatomy of renal diseases, related to the Society cases in which temporary albuminuria had followed upon cold bathing. I shall shortly subjoin a note of these cases as illustrative of my subject, after having shown, by details of cases, the clinical relations of the condition known as rigors to both albuminuria and haematuria. I think the facts will prove that, in the process known as “taking cold,” there is always a change induced in the trophic nervous system, both locally and generally, such, that one or other of a numerous group of trophic changes result in organs and tissues, and that this morbid and morbific change is one of the primary and most essential conditions of the process.

The first case of transient neurotic albuminuria with rigors occurred in a man who had been exposed to great atmospheric heat, and at the same time to malaria—a poison which, whatever may be its nature, induces a great variety of neuroses. In especial, those who have thus suffered in tropical climates not unfrequently have

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