

Clinical Methods

Sir Robert Hutchison

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1903 Excerpt: ...and its reaction has not been tested, a deposit of pus cannot be distinguished with the naked eye from a deposit of phosphates. It should also be borne in mind that deposits of phosphates and pus often occur together. Urates.--The urates of sodium, potassium, and ammonium may form a deposit if the urine be concentrated or highly acid. They may appear, even in health, when the urine cools. Owing to their affinity for the urinary pigments the deposit is usually coloured, being commonly red, or like terra-cotta, forming what is known as the "brick-dust" deposit. If the urinary pigment be scanty, however, the deposit may be merely yellowish, or even colourless. Deposits of urates can always be recognised by the fact that they disappear rapidly on heating the urine. The heating ought to be accomplished gradually, because the urine might also contain albumin, which, if the urine were rapidly heated, might be coagulated before the deposit of urates had all had time to clear up, and thus confusion might arise. Acetic acid does not dissolve a deposit of urates. On the other hand, strong mineral acids, such as nitric acid, dissolve the deposit at once with the production of effervescence. Acid urate of soda is a rare deposit. It occurs in acid urines. It forms a yellowish, granular, sandy-looking sediment. It does not dissolve readily on heating. Acid urate of ammonia forms a very similar deposit, but it occurs in ammoniacal

urines, and is therefore mixed up with a deposit of phosphates. Uric acid.--This may form a scanty deposit visible to the naked eye. The deposit occurs in the form of crystalline grains of a darkish brown colour, and is therefore known as the "cayenne-pepper deposit." When in doubt use the microscope. The sulphates practica...