



A

THESIS

on

ACUTE NEPHRITIS IN CHILDREN

- (1) The Seasonal Incidence.
- (2) The effect of operative removal
of focal sepsis,

by

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INTRODUCTION.

For several years it has been the practice at the Adelaide Children's Hospital and elsewhere to recommend operative removal or drainage of so-called "septic foci" as a mode of treatment in "acute nephritis".

It appeared to the writer that some guide as to the use of such treatment, and its results should be placed on record, particularly the prognostic value of operation. In addition an investigation has been conducted into the seasonal and monthly incidence of acute nephritis as it occurs in Adelaide and suburbs.

This has resulted in the presentation of this thesis in two main divisions:-

- (1) The recording of investigations in connection with the seasonal incidence of the disease.
- (2) Investigation of operative treatment of septic foci in acute nephritis in children.

Other data which are discussed more briefly are:-

- (1) Historical account of the disease.
- (2) Classification and clinical data.
- (3) Aetiological factors.

The material for the investigation has been gathered from 146 cases of acute nephritis occurring in the Adelaide Children's Hospital over ~~varying~~ periods from 1910 to 1932, and are limited to the first twelve years of life. The major portion of the cases, was those which occurred from 1924 to 1932, the cases in the earlier years being included in the seasonal incidence investigations only. Many of the original records were obtained by a digest of the clinical notes, but the majority of the cases were examined and the special laboratory investigations were conducted, personally.

Reference to classification will be made later, but for the sake of preliminary explanation the cases in this review comprise those which would come under the terms:-

- (1) Acute Focal Glomerulo-Nephritis
 - (2) Acute Diffuse " " " "
- } (1) (2)

and will, unless otherwise stated, be referred to as "acute nephritis" without amplification.