step it is the mechanism most likely to be affected.

While it is not possible to decide from these results whether diethyl ether increases monoamine oxidase activity, anesthetics (including cyclopropane and halothane in the concentrations used) apparently do not inhibit this enzyme. This is of some significance, at least, in considerations of anesthetic action on the metabolism of biogenic amines, especially that of catecholamines.

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Kidney

RENAL FUNCTION Eighteen patients with normal renal function were investigated to determine the changes in urinary protein excretion associated with routine abdominal procedures. There was a real increase in urinary protein concentration and excretion at the time of and following surgery. This increase was transient, reaching a peak in the third or fourth postoperative 24-hour urine collection and returning to normal between the eighth and tenth postoperative days. Protein excretion was higher in patients who underwent major operations, which suggests that tubular handling of proteins was temporarily compromised. Whether there is actual cellular damage, or a metabolic change, is a matter of conjecture. (*Macbeth, W. A., and Pope, G. R.: Effect of Abdominal Operation upon Protein Excretion in Man, Lancet 1: 215 (Feb.) 1968.*)