

festations. Some are relieved by posture. Some pass off abruptly, and others slowly. A temporary hydronephrosis may attend the attack, or it may not.

Apart from these intense and alarming disturbances the symptoms ascribed by various writers to movable kidney may be said to include all those manifold ills which make up the melancholy history of the "enjoyers of poor health." There is scarcely an 'abdominal symptom' which has not been placed to the credit of a floating kidney. Yet all classical symptoms of this disorder may be present, and the kidneys be found to be firmly fixed in position.

As to what constitutes the classical symptoms of this disorder it is probable that they would be tabulated somewhat as follows. A sense of dragging in the abdomen, a dragging from the loin, attended with an undefinable discomfort and feeling of weakness. This discomfort may pass into actual pain, which pain may follow the lines accredited to renal pain, or may radiate down the thighs and legs and across the back. There may be some undue frequency of micturition, but this is uncommon. Added to this would be certain evidences of abdominal disturbance, such as dyspepsia, flatulence, and constipation. The symptoms are increased by movements, and especially by jolting, and the patient is disposed to walk and stand as little as possible. The relief when in the recumbent position is usually complete.

Over and above such manifestations as these come that congeries of troubles which belong to what is known as "neurasthenia." Here we find a mysterious exhaustion, a terrorising palpitation, vertigo, irritability of temper, instability of purpose, neuralgias of more or less intense types, insomnia, and other symptoms, most of which are described in language of great intensity and vividness by the patient.

Not a few of the subjects of this trouble may be described as presenting an assertive peevishness and a whining type of melancholy which their friends describe as "trying." From the very precise account which Dickens has given of the mental attitude of Mrs. Gummings it may be safe to assume that she had a movable kidney.

Among the less common effects of movable kidney may be mentioned, dilatation of the stomach, intestinal obstruction and jaundice. I have reported two cases in which the movable kidney reproduced with extraordinary exactness the phenomena of hepatic colic followed by jaundice. In both instances the condition was revealed by operation.*

Treatment of Movable Kidney.—The literature of this subject

* *Lancet*, January 6, 1900.