

uterus and ovaries were free and normal. A diagnosis of tumor of, or in the neighborhood of the right kidney was made and after rallying the patient by a few days of rectal feeding an exploratory incision was made in the median line. It was then found that the tumor was the spleen slightly enlarged, and adherent to neighboring structures in the right iliac fossa. Its mesentery, in which were enormous vessels, could be traced for several inches upwards. The organ was removed by breaking down adhesions and tying the vessels separately and the wound closed. There was much shock, although the operation did not consume a half hour and there was no haemorrhage, but the patient rallied under stimulants and saline enemata. For three days she went along nicely without a rise of temperature and taking nourishment well; but on the fourth day her pulse rather suddenly became very weak, and she died in a few hours. Examination of the abdominal cavity after death showed that there had been no haemorrhage or peritonitis, so she must have succumbed to heart failure due to extreme anæmia.

There was in this special case of wandering spleen no history to account for its displacement. The patient never had had malarial symptoms, nor could any history of traumatism or sprain from lifting be had. She had had no previous attack of pain, in fact had been a comparatively healthy woman. No blood examination was made. It is almost certain that this acute attack was due to torsion of the long pedicle as the spleen was almost gangrenous and marked everywhere with haemorrhages into its substance. There was a decided perisplenitis.

**HISTORY OF OPERATION.**—The operation is not by any means a new one, in fact it dates back to the time of Queen Elizabeth. Splenectomy was first done, experimentally, on a dog early in the 17th century by two London surgeons, Gillam and Reid. The dog we are informed grew mangy in 6 weeks.

Later, in 1664, the Hon. Robert Boyle and Dr. Jolive repeated the experiment but with more success. Dr. Boyle tells us the story quaintly thus: "That it might not be pretended the operation was unfaithfully or favorably made, I did part of it myself and held the spleen (which was the largest in proportion to the body that ever I did see), in my own hand while he cut asunder the vessels reaching to it that I might be sure there was not the least part of the spleen unextirpated and yet this puppy in less than a fortnight grew not only well, but as sportive and wanton as before."

The experiment was reported in 1714 by Hüster in Germany and in 1719 in Italy. Numerous experimenters showed that the operation was seldom fatal. Zaccorelli case, 1540, is always quoted as the first instance of its performance on a human being, but his account is boastful and doubtful. Viard, of Paris, is said to have removed an injured spleen in 1581. There are other doubtful cases. E. O'Brien, of Dublin, certainly removed one for injury in 1814 and the patient was well months after. The operation was done by Gullenbauman, 1826, by Kùchler and by Volney Dorsay in 1855, by Spencer Wells in 1865, and Bryant in 1866. Since then its successful performance has often been recorded. Experi-