

satisfactory pathological generalizations." Apparently it must be from the recent cases, and from those to be reported upon in the future, that these can be compiled, for the majority of the reports, in all but late years, fall so far short of the requirements, of an accurate and complete analysis, that they are practically valueless beyond a certain amount of clinical interest. Kelynack, in his treatise on Renal Growths, remarks that at the very outset we are baffled by the confusion resulting from the use, and the misuse of terms. "Much of the material compiled is rendered almost useless for satisfactory comparison in a great measure through faulty or misleading nomenclature."

ETIOLOGY.

The causative agents, as insisted upon by various authors, are large in number.

Cohnheim's theory of misplaced embryonic tissue—faulty segmentation of the provertebral somites, and consequent inclusion of some of these cells in the primitive kidney—seems especially applicable to those cases where, in addition to the sarcomatous tissue, muscle fibre, cartilage, bone, etc., is found.

Ebert, Osler, Gardner, Jacobi, and others support the embryonic theory, with slight modifications.

Trauma, despite the protected position of the kidney in many of the cases reported upon, has been especially emphasized.

In Walker's collection of 142 cases of renal sarcoma, trauma as a marked feature, such as a kick from a horse, blow, etc., is mentioned in 30. Other reports lay equal stress upon this point.

Weigert mentions the exanthemata as one of the incidents frequently preceding the growth.

Calculi: Bright, Morris, and others have reported cases where this factor seemed to be of undoubted etiological importance.

Other factors have in different reports been mentioned, but the above seem to have been most frequently of significance.

Among the predisposing influences are age, sex, and race, though the first is by far the most important. Upon this point there is great uniformity of opinion. Generally speaking the frequency increases from uterine life to six months; from six months to four years the percentage is much higher, and after four years it drops away, a distant period being marked by the 8th year. In fact after this age sarcoma of the kidney is extremely rare in comparison with the foregoing years.