

peritoneum, and were about to burst through the vagina at the time of death. This occurred in an unmarried woman. Other cases of true hydatids forming in the uterus are recorded. The above cited opinions of writers, principally within the present century, affirming that hydatids cannot exist in the virgin state, may suffice. I now turn, as far as possible in order of succession, to authors whose views are in direct opposition. Ruysch asserts that uterine moles and hydatids have been found in females who never had any intercourse with the other sex. The Parliament of Paris, in 1781, decided that there were instances of girls, and even of nuns, who had produced uterine moles without any previous sexual connexion. Gardien, in his work, "Traité Complet," says—"Hydatids may be met with in girls as well as in women: however, although they are independent of sexual intercourse, they are much more frequently met with in women who have borne children, and especially when they have arrived at the turn of life." Denman says—"These have been supposed to proceed from coagula of blood, or portions of the placenta remaining in the uterus, and this opinion is generally true; but there is sometimes reason for thinking that they are an original production of the uterus, independent of such accidental circumstances, and sometimes the precursors of organic disease in that part." Sir Charles M. Clarke thus expresses himself—"It is probable that the existence of pregnancy is not necessary for the production of the disease. It has been believed to exist independently of this state; and perhaps a morbid condition of organized coagulating lymph may have the power of originating this disease, under certain circumstances, but what these circumstances are, is not known. Dr. Smith, in his "Principles of Forensic Medicine," says—"They may be found in females who have never had intercourse." Cruveilhier, in his article on hydatids, ("Anatom. and Path. Gen.") considers that they might be owing to the introduction of unassimilated living molecules or germs into the blood from the alimentary canal, and circulated along with the blood to every organ of the body, until they became arrested in some part and there grew and multiplied. M. Dupuy arrived at the same conclusion with Cruveilhier. Dr. Blundell does not view conception as a necessary condition. Dr. Evory Kennedy says that hydatids may occur in virgins. Mr.

Douglas Fox, surgeon to the Derbyshire Infirmary, relates the particulars of a case where a large mass of vesicular hydatids was expelled from the uterus of a maiden lady where the hymen was unruptured, and of whose chastity there could be no suspicion. Dr. Ashwell, in his work on the Diseases of Females, says—"Now, while it may be granted that in the greater number of examples these productions originate indirectly from pregnancy, I am convinced such an origin is not universal." The cases already mentioned prove this, at least, so far as I can judge; they establish the fact, that vesicles so like the hydatids of the chorion as not to be distinguished from them by the eye, do very rarely grow from the diseased lining membrane of unmarried women and virgins. Dr. Ramsbotham inclines to the belief that hydatids may be formed in the virgin uterus, and thinks the membranous substance secreted in dysmenorrhœa very likely to lay the foundation for the disease. Dr. Andrews, in the *Glasgow Medical Journal*, relates four cases of hydatids. Two of them were in married women; the other two in girls of the ages of sixteen and seventeen years. In one menstruation had never occurred, and the hymen was entire. The advocates of pregnancy as the sole origin of vesicular hydatids will, of course, think these were examples of the true or acephalocyst form of the disease. Dr. Ashwell considers that the true hydatid or acephalocyst may form in the parenchyma, or walls of the uterus, in the same way that it grows in the liver or muscular tissue of other parts of the body. Mr. Witten, of Brighton, in the *Lancet* for Feb'y 1st, 1840, detailed a very interesting case of hydatid formation. On post mortem examination, a highly varicose state of uterine veins was seen at posterior surface of fundus beneath the peritoneum, constituting a rounded tumor. In the diseased part there was an opening containing a coagulum. This opening was proved to be the immediate cause of death by effusion of blood into the abdomen. A mass of hydatids protruded into the cavity of the womb, portions of the mass being firmly adherent to it. In the vicinity of this mass the lining membrane had degenerated in character, and was covered by patches of lymph. On removal of the adherent hydatids, it was found that the lining membrane was partly wanting, and that masses of hydatids were imbedded in the structure of the organ. These, certainly were very different