

named authors exist in abundance, but apparently almost uniformly distributed throughout the corium. They do not appear in any way connected with the sebaceous glands, and these seem to be in every respect normal. The yellow pigment in the cells is certainly not fat, for it is wholly unaltered by the action of ether.

Dr. OSLER read a paper on "Two Cases of Rare Kidney Tumors." He remarked that primary tumors were comparatively rare, but a peculiarity was the frequency with which they occurred in early life. In the majority of the cases reported the tumors have been cancerous in character; sarcoma—tumors consisting of normal or spindle cells, with but little intercellular substance—are scarcely mentioned in the pathologies.

The first case occurred in a child, nineteen months old, patient of Dr. Dugdale's. Death took place somewhat suddenly after an illness of ten to twelve hours, symptoms being chiefly gastric. Nothing abnormal was found in the organs except a tumor projecting from the cervix border of the left kidney, and which on section was found to occupy the greater part of the organ, forming a mass about the size of an orange. The substance of the tumor was made up of strands of tolerably firm tissue enclosing a softer material. The former were composed of spindle cells together with numerous elongated, transversely striped muscle fibres, without sarcolemma, and with central nuclei. The latter—the intervening softer material—was made up of round cells about the size of colorless blood corpuscles. The tumor is therefore a round-celled sarcoma containing striped muscle fibres, a myoma strio-cellulare of Virchow, or rhabdomyoma of Yenker. Tumors containing muscle-fibres are pathological curiosities, only about twenty instances being on record, the majority in connection with growth of testicle and ovaries. A tumor of this nature in the kidney was first described by Ebertts in 1872, and within the past two years five other cases have been recorded by German observers, Cohnheim, Marchand, Landsberger, Kocher, and Huber; all these cases have been in children from seven to thirty-nine months old. The tumors have all presented very similar histological characters and are more properly called myo-sarcomas.

The second case occurred in the practice of

Dr. Clark, of Drumbo, Ont. (now of Oakville). The subject was an eight months' fœtus, which only lived a few minutes. It was healthy looking, but the belly was swollen, and on examination the kidneys were found increased in size. One of them, together with the other abdominal viscera, were forwarded to Dr. R. P. Howard, who handed them over to Dr. Osler for description. The kidney is about four times the natural size, somewhat rounded in shape; on section no kidney substance to be seen, cortex not distinguishable from medulla. The substance presents a spongy alveolated appearance, from the existence of a number of little spaces. The tissue is firm, cuts easily, and appears chiefly as strands separating the spaces. On examination, at the cortex the tubuli uriniferi and malpighian capsules are distinct, but the intertubular tissue is increased by the presence of numerous spindle cells. Towards the pelvis the entire substance is made up of these cells closely compressed together, and among them coils of epithelial cells are seen, some resembling dilated tubuli, others irregular-shaped malpighian capsules. From the number and arrangement of the new growth of cells the tumor is evidently a sarcoma, and as the epithelial new formations in the part towards the pelvis, though irregular, conform as regards the shape of the cells to renal epithelium, the designation spindle-celled adeno-sarcoma is appropriate. So far as Dr. Osler had been able to ascertain, no such variety of tumor had heretofore been described in the kidney.

Dr. OSLER also added some remarks on Cohnheim's theory of tumors.

In the discussion which followed Drs. Hingston, Buller, Ross and Trenholme took part.

A vote of thanks to Drs. Osler and Buller was moved by Dr. KENNEDY, seconded by Dr. HINGSTON, and carried.

The meeting then adjourned.

OLIVER C. EDWARDS, M.D.,

*Secretary.*

#### BIRTHS.

On March 11th, the wife of L. H. Evans, Esq., M.D., 152 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, of a daughter.

At 50 Duke Street, Toronto, March 1st, the wife of Wm. Oldright, M.A., M.D., of a son.