

## SPLEEN.

This organ is rarely displaced though slight variations in its position are often found. One is specially alluded to, viz., that in which a rotation occurs so that the renal surface is turned away from the left kidney, being directed along with the gastric surface towards the front. This change is brought about either through the pressure of the stomach or of the left lobe of the liver.

## PANCREAS.

This gland normally has scarcely any range of movement; it varies in shape according to the firmness of its attachments as well as to the general nutrition of the body. Slight movements may be made in all directions. The most resistance is found when it is attempted to move the gland up or down, due to the vascular connections with the aorta and vena porta. There is less resistance when the head is pushed to the left. Often that part of the gland on the left of the aorta is quite loosely attached to surrounding structures. This is especially the case when there is a roomy abdomen, lax abdominal wall, and loose retro-peritoneal connective tissue. In such a condition it is easy to understand how the gland may undergo displacement.

We may find that the body of the gland is dislocated downwards. Normally the gland runs transversely across the back wall of the abdomen in the root of the transverse mesocolon. The sinking of the left lobe of the liver, stomach and transverse colon may therefore alter the position of the body. Generally it is forced somewhat downwards, a rotation occurring whereby the upper surface is brought to the front, the anterior turned down, and the lower directed towards the back. If the pressure which is caused by the sinking down of the parts is very marked the gland becomes considerably flattened out resembling a dog's tongue. The head of the gland may not be altered in position and a fold may therefore be formed between it and the body.

Another displacement of the gland consists in the movement of the head towards the left. Normally the head of the pancreas crosses the spine and vena cava and may lie 2 or 3 cm. to the right of the latter. It may be pushed to the left so that the vena cava is uncovered and the right border of the head be made to lie to the left of the middle line. This distortion may be produced by the pressure of a right lobe of the liver which is greatly elongated downwards, by that resulting from an enlarged gall-bladder, from both of these factors, or from the pressure of distended bowel on the right of the pancreas.

Sometimes as a result of this pressure an angle may be formed on the body of the pancreas.