

Among recent French writers, Rivièrè,* in a treatise of one hundred and fifty pages, while discussing various diseases of the gland and pointing out that hæmorrhage into the vesicles may lead to a true hæmatocele, has nothing further to say with regard to the relationship between such hæmorrhages and cyst formation beyond the bare notice of the occurrence of hæmorrhagic cysts, and of the liability on the part of intra-acinous papillary growths to give rise to intracystic hæmorrhage. In English and American literature, descriptions of the removal of gross solitary cysts of the gland, evidently similar to those about to be described, are not infrequent, but the surgical features are in general dwelt upon to the entire exclusion of the histological characters. The only full and exact description that I have met with in English or American literature is in an article by Dalziel upon a case described as one of cystic adenoma.† His description tallies entirely with that given by me, and he is careful to draw attention to the very extensive hæmorrhages both into and around the vesicles, and to the evidence that in part, at least, these are of old standing.

But it would seem that against the theory of Wölfler there is not a little to be said. Rupture of a secreting organ or of the follicles of a secreting organ as a result of overactivity is most rare, even in the acini of glands which possess efferent ducts. When these ducts are obstructed, and retention cysts developed, the (at times) enormous expansion of the secreting surface in the cysts does not lead to spontaneous rupture. This certainly may be laid down as a rule to which there exist only peculiarly rare exceptions. Wölfler states that, in the thyroid, areas of such bursting of the vesicles can be recognised. While I am most ready to admit that he has examined a very much larger number of thyroids than has come into my hands, I feel it right to say that in more than twenty-five separate specimens of this organ which I have recently studied, the majority presenting one or other morbid condition, I have not seen any sign of this bursting of dilated vesicles, although I have carefully sought for it; or, to state

* Rivièrè, *Contribution à l'étude anatomique du corps thyroïde et des goîtres*, Lyons, 1893.

† Dalziel, *Glasgow Medical Journal*, xli, 1894, p. 227.