

the left lobe is generally smaller than that formed by the right. The relations of the posterior surface are complicated and differ in the right and left halves of the abdomen. That part lying to the right of the vena cava has the greatest area. It lies between the spine and the ribs immediately in front of the right kidney, which may be found in its proper place. The corset-furrow before referred to, lies anterior to this kidney, the liver substance behind the furrow being very thin, and, owing to the pressure exerted by the corset, is very close to the kidney. Above and below the kidney the liver-substance is thicker, being less compressed in these parts. Above, it forms a thick rounded mass, which lies between the ribs, the diaphragm, the vena cava and the spine. Beneath, it often forms a small mass which fits under the lower end of the kidney, apparently playing some part in supporting it. This is referred to by Hertz as the sustentaculum-formation of the right lobe of the liver. It is united to the upper part of the liver by the above-described thin portion, but frequently it is distinguished from it by a deep sulcus on the right border opposite the corset-furrow on the anterior surface. This is caused by an atrophy of the liver-substance compressed between the outer border of the kidney and the part of the lobe in front of it. This enlarged inferior mass—constriction-lobe has always been supposed, since Frerichs' time, to be due to congestion. But Hertz points out that this portion has the same structure as the rest of the liver, and that in certain other cases (to be afterwards considered) where the right kidney is displaced downwards so as to project forward under the constriction-lobe, the latter is found as a thin sharp corner, showing no thickening whatever.

As the constriction-lobe dips under the liver it touches the hepatic flexure of the colon. The latter is, as a rule, displaced downwards, and the sustentaculum rests between it and the lower end of the kidney in the form of a wedge. In this way, it is evident, a nest is built for the kidney by the liver substance, the former organ remaining in its proper place. The central portion of the posterior surface of the liver is in relation to the right half of the vertebral column; this portion, corresponding to the quadrate lobe, also rests against the head of the pancreas. The left lobe of the liver is very variable, both in size and shape in these cases. As a rule it is elongated downwards in the form of a triangle or of a long rectangle. The corset-furrow with the accompanying perihepatitis is found on the anterior surface, extending higher than on the right lobe; where it reaches the left margin of the liver, there is a triangular depression or a sulcus due to atrophy. The posterior relations are variable.