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ACUTE HEMATOGENOUS INFECTION OF ONE KIDNEY IN PERSONS APPARENTLY WELL.

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Under this title, a paper of more than passing interest, by Dr. Farrar Cobb, assistant surgeon to the Massachusetts General Hospital, appears in the November issue of *Annals of Surgery*. The subject has proved of especial interest to the writer on account of two similar cases which have occurred in his own practice during the last year—the first, that of a man of about 38, declined operation and is still occasionally subject to sub-acute attacks of pain; the other, a woman of 26, operated on, kidney incised and drained (not removed) has made complete recovery. As Dr. Cobb's paper is very complete, and his cases fully recorded, I shall content myself with as brief, yet thorough, a résumé of it as possible, rather than dwell on my own cases.

After stating that it is not well understood by the profession as yet that persons apparently in good health may suffer from septic infarcts of the kidney (usually due to the colon bacillus, circulating in the blood), Dr. Cobb goes on to show that infection of this kind is of two varieties, in so far as its origin is concerned, viz., ascending, the urogenous type, and infection, from the blood—the hematogenous type. It may take place also through wounds or by extension from other abscesses in the immediate vicinity of the kidney. The infection may be carried, in the form of minute bits of infected tissue, to the kidney and arrested in some of the terminal vessels, or bacteria, circulating freely in the blood, may be deposited in like manner in the kidney.