

occurring as it frequently does in connexion with renal calculi and obstruction of the ureter; as was pointed out by Cruveilhier and Rokitsansky.

Like fatty accumulation about the heart, it may occur coincidently with a general increase of the fat of the body, or it may be the only instance of fatty growth in the economy. It doubtless in some instances impairs the nutrition of the organ in which it grows, as is well seen in "fatty growth" of the heart; and in others, it is perhaps itself secondary to suspended function and atrophy of the organ, as is observed in the mammae of old and fat women.

Fortunately, this pathological condition usually obtains but in one kidney, and as it is perhaps most frequently met with in those cases in which renal calculus has led to pyelitis, obstruction of the ureter, hydronephrosis, and destruction of the secreting substance of the gland, it is probably in such instances, secondary to the alteration in the renal structure. Fatty growth in and about the kidney cannot yet be recognised during life.

ART. XIII.—*On Diseases peculiar to Women, including displacements of the uterus.* By HENRY L. HODGE, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in the University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: Blanchard and Lea; Montreal: Dawson & Son, 1860. 8vo. pp. 469.

The work before us is an eminently practical one, written by one of the veterans of the profession, and who, having devoted great attention to the diseases of the formative organs of generation in the female, finally concluded, at the solicitation of friends, to give his opinions to the world, which he certainly has done in one of the most original volumes which it has been our fortune to peruse.

When we consider the extreme importance of the diseases in question, their frequent obscurity, their distressing influence upon the system of the suffering female, the difficulties in their treatment, their frequency of recurrence, the nicety in diagnosis which they require, and, lastly, the obstinacy or inveteracy with which they maintain their ground, and very commonly advance despite the best and most scientific treatment,—we are disposed to welcome this book as a valuable acquisition to the library of the physician, as it embodies the ideas and views of one who has enjoyed no mean opportunities for pursuing his inquiries.

We have to remark that the author by no means has proposed to consider all the diseases of which the formative organs of generation in the female may prove the origin or the seat. He has devoted his pages rather to a consideration of the latter; and in the outset has divided them into two groups,—1st, those of irritation, and, 2nd, those of sedation,—and he starts with strictly defining the meaning to be attached to these terms.

Under the former, or irritable diseases of women are included those which more or less directly involve the cerebro-spinal system. Of course they are numerous and diversified; but nevertheless they so often, indeed so generally, depend on some local irritation, that their apparently varied, complicated, and mysterious character, will be, in some degree, dissipated by a close analysis of their phenomena." And this remark is undoubtedly true, for we very frequently witness phenomena of a generally nervous character, completely alleviated by