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Original Articles

SOME ASPECTS OF RENAL SURGERY*

BY RAMON GUITERAS, M.D., NEW YORK.

Dr. Guiteras began his talk on the kidney by saying that as he understood the audience was formed of surgeons, physicians, specialists and general practitioners, he felt that he could not divide his slides in such a way as to give a talk to any particular group that would be interesting to other groups, and that he would therefore stroll through his slides, showing them hastily.

He began with anomalies of the kidney, and took up first the variety known as single, unilateral or assymetrical, stating that they were very rare, and that, according to statistics, such a condition was found once in between four and five thousand bodies at autopsy—that in a period of ten years at Guy's Hospital, London, during which 4,632 autopsies had been performed, there had only been one case of single or unilateral kidney. He further stated that in teaching operative surgery on the cadaver for eight years, during which time he had frequently had eight or nine classes of four each running at one time, and in each class both kidneys were operated upon, he had never seen a case of unilateral kidney; and yet, in a small hospital—the Columbus—with which he was connected (of less than 100 beds), in a period of nine months, during which only 15 autopsies were performed, that three of these cases, or 20 per cent., proved to have but one kidney. He showed the three specimens from his slides, calling attention to their large size, and also to the fact that they were all lobulated and fissured,

*An illustrated lecture, delivered before the Academy of Medicine, Toronto, February 4th, 1913.