

been due to the inflammatory action produced by the pyonephrosis. No doubt in these cases the operation is almost necessarily a fatal one, but in cases such as Socin's there is no good reason why success should not follow operation. In some cases the isthmus is much longer and thicker than others. Prof. W. Gruber describes two cases in which the isthmus was membranous only. Anomalies of kidneys should be familiar to surgeons. A not uncommon one is the displacement of one or both organs. I saw a case last year where the left kidney was situated between the two common iliac arteries. The hilus was anterior and the kidney was disc-shaped. It must be also borne in mind that the kidney may be single. I have seen only one example of this anomaly.

*Renal Surgery at the British Medical Association.*—At the last meeting of the British Medical Association a most interesting discussion took place on renal surgery (*Brit. Medical Jour.*, Nov. 16th, 1889). It was opened by Mr. Henry Morris, who drew attention to the following points: (1) The various ways in which renal calculi are imbedded in the kidney require special precautions whilst operating. (Mr. Morris is of opinion that nothing short of a digital exploration of the pelvis and calyces of the kidney will suffice to discover stone in some cases.)

(2) Tubercle of the kidney, as well as suppurating foci due to other causes, may give rise to the same tactile sensations as small calculi.

(3) Tubercular disease of the prostate is a source of fallacy in diagnosing renal calculi. It is well known that pain may be transferred to the renal region from disease of the lower urinary tract; and if there be, in addition, a small amount of pus and blood in the urine, and no cystitis, the diagnosis is much complicated.

(4) Nephrectomy is of very doubtful value in advanced tubercular renal disease.

(5) Lumbar nephrectomy is the proper treatment for advanced hydronephrosis, and for large collections of fluid behind the peritoneum, the result of lacerated kidney.

(6) Nephrorrhaphy for movable kidney is of great service.