

ON RETROPERITONEAL AND PERIRENAL LIPOMATA.

BY

J. GEORGE ADAMI, M.A., M.D.

Professor of Pathology, McGill University. Montreal.

The fat which is normally present around the kidney is liable as is well known to great overgrowth when those organs are diseased, as, for instance, in cases of hydronephrosis, of renal calculus and in many forms of chronic renal disturbance; more especially when the organ has undergone atrophic change is this overgrowth apt to present itself and under these conditions it would seem to have originated as a compensatory development. To this form of hyperplasia Virchow has called special attention. There is however a condition of excessive hyperplasia leading to the development of enormous neoplasms concerning which, so far as I can find out, Virchow makes no mention in his great work on tumours; a form in which the kidneys primarily would seem to be unaffected and in which the development of new fatty tissue is so enormous that growths from 40 to 60 lbs. in weight develop in the course of a few months or, more frequently, of from one to three years.

That Virchow should make no mention of these or of retro-peritoneal lipomata in general is evidence of their rarity, indeed after a careful study of the literature of the subject I have been unable to collect descriptions either complete or partial of more than about twenty-four cases; nor again have I come across any general article on the subject in our language. Nevertheless where the condition is present the clinical histories and the appearances found at the autopsy present so uniform a character and one so clearly marked off in many respects from other abdominal overgrowths that it is well worth while to collate what has been written upon the subject and to indicate the special points which characterise this form of tumour. My attention has been more especially called to the subject from the fact that within a few weeks two very well marked cases of this condition came under my notice. For the history of one of these cases together with the tumour I am indebted to Dr. Hanna, of Perth, Ont.; for the history and notes in connection with the other I have to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Billings, Dr. Lamb, and the authorities of the Army Medical Museum at Washington. This last case I am informed has never been fully recorded and is of especial interest to me in that in almost every point it is identical with the former.