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ABDOMINAL NEPHRECTOMY FOR HYDRO-NEPHROSIS, WITH A REPORT OF TWO OPERATIONS.

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There can be no doubt that the past years have been progressive ones in abdominal surgery ; nevertheless, most practitioners who have attempted any operating in this region will have felt, on many occasions, not only lack of precision in diagnosis, but grave difficulties arising during the operative procedures that become necessary in most of these cases. In studying the operative surgery of the kidney, it is interesting to observe that, while 15 or 20 years ago a larger proportion of the operations were performed after an error in diagnosis, during the last few years a correct diagnosis before operation has been the rule, although many exceptions are to be noted. The difficulty in diagnosis, it would appear, is increased in cases of great enlargement of the organ, where the patient, when seen for the first time, presents a tumor filling the whole abdomen. In the two cases of advanced hydro-nephrosis which I am now about to report, the making of a correct diagnosis appears to me to be singularly difficult. This is owing chiefly to the size of the tumor and the great similarity in each to ovarian cyst. In both cases I have to admit an error in diagnosis, and in both I commenced operation on this wrong opinion ; whether a second error was committed in treatment I leave to the judgment of the Associa-