

Medical Jurisprudence.

MALPOSITION OF THE KIDNEYS.

Reported by Dr. JAMES H. BUTLER, Demonstrator of Anatomy in the University of Maryland.

On the 14th of November last, a *body* was brought into the dissecting-room of the University of Maryland, presenting an extraordinary malposition of both kidneys.

The subject was a negro man, apparently about thirty years of age, nearly six feet in height, well formed and developed, and but little changed by sickness. The disease from which death had ensued was evidently pneumonia, both lungs being found in a hepatized condition.

When the students who were engaged on the *body* had advanced to the examination of the abdominal viscera, an abnormal position of the urinary organs was observed; for the kidneys, instead of occupying the lumbar region, were found situated in the pelvic cavity.

Both kidneys were united, or fused into one, with a central line or raphé making a longitudinal fissure over the surface of the organs, better marked on the posterior than on the anterior part. In length, they extended from the lower border of the fourth lumbar vertebra downward over the promontory of the sacrum to the middle of that bone—in all, five inches; and in breadth measured three and three-fourth inches. The ureters sprang from the pelvis, which occupied the central anterior part of the organs, and then passed off on each side, and emptied into the bladder at the usual site.

The tumor, thus formed by the kidneys, could be readily felt by examining with the fingers *per rectum*.

The arteries supplying the organs were four in number—above, a single large trunk came from the aorta, just at its bifurcation, immediately in front of the *sacra media* artery, passed downward, and before entering the substance of the organs, broke up in five small branches; on the left side, two arteries came from the left internal iliac, near its commencement; on the right side, an artery passed into the organs from the right internal iliac.

Believing that such a condition as I have described has never been presented in any pathological work, I deemed it proper to lay it before the profession as a remarkable circumstance, and one which doubtless gave the person no trouble, and was in no wise connected with his death.

—*New York Medical Journal.*