

sence of a stone is no assurance that it will continue to augment, inasmuch as its growth is mainly dependent upon the agency of extraneous circumstances the reverse of those previously mentioned as present in the case under observation. The existence of a vesical calculus will not necessarily produce a morbid state of urine, for with the formation of the former the latter may have been exhausted, and its original cause have ceased to be operative. No more will a stone, by inevitable consequence, induce bladder disease nor provoke general derangement of health. And thus the symptoms may be simply of a physical kind, as existed in the above case, and such as would be produced by any other ovoid moveable body in the same place. This doctrine is in perfect accordance with the opinion given by Delpech, that a calculus having attained a certain size may cease to increase, and the bladder become accustomed to its presence, so that very little pain is suffered. Dr. Crosse, in his valuable treatise on urinary calculus, mentions a case as equally suggestive of these views as Gaudreau's. It was that of a patient who, 20 years before his death, was assured by his surgeon, after sounding, that he had a stone: he refused the operation and at the end of that number of years died, when a stone was found in his bladder which weighed only vj and ai , and was composed of almost pure lithic acid. Now by the rate of increase before stated, very many years must have been passed by the stone in a stationary state.

From a statistical examination of the results of lithotomy, undertaken with the object of ascertaining the relative frequency of a few of the chief circumstances connected with calculi of less weight than two drachms, I find that,—1stly, of 704 calculi weighed, 245, or more than one-third the total number, were less than two drachms.—2ndly, of stones under two drachms in weight, no close relation can be established between them and the ages of the patients in whom they occurred. Stones, each 3i and 3i , have occurred in a boy of 4 and a man of 52: stones, each 10 grs., in a man of 60 and a child of 3. Nevertheless it may be roughly stated that the majority of light stones are peculiar to the ages of juvenility and adolescence. No instance has been discovered of a stone weighing less than two scruples extracted from a person over the age of puberty, while generally grain weight stones are confined to the earlier years of life. To the last statement, one remarkable exception has been met with, in which a calculus of ten grains was taken away from a person who had reached his 60th year.—3rdly, Of 100 cases of death after lithotomy, which have been tabulated, 19, or nearly one-fifth, were after extraction of stones weighing less than two drachms.—4thly, Of 100 cases of recoveries after lithotomy and extrac-