

speaking of his sixth case, in the same article, he says: "This operation, performed on Jan. 10, 1898, constitutes the first operation ever undertaken upon the kidney with the deliberate purpose of curing chronic Bright's disease, and in so far marks a period in the history of the affection."

This case was published in his first paper (April 22, 1899), after my first publication.

Dr. Edebohls' example has been followed, and we are here and there hearing of good results from other surgeons. Physicians in the first rank recognize that there is a surgical treatment for nephritis. To Dr. Edebohls is due the credit of individually working out this surgical treatment, and operating on more cases of Bright's disease than any other surgeon. While I am constrained to claim priority (first in publication), I cannot but feel proud of the distinction and record the doctor has made for himself, in trying to solve the limitations of kidney decapsulation in nephritis. In the *Medical Record*, New York, (March 28, 1903,) Dr. Edebohls publishes his experience, which amounts to no less than 51 cases treated by operation. It will be seen in the description of my experience, our work has been developing contemporaneously.

I shall now very briefly refer to the development of kidney surgery before giving my personal work on nephritis. It is only thirty-five years since the kidneys have been operated on at all. Like many of the other internal organs of the body, diseases affecting them were treated by internal medication. We can appreciate how Peaslee (1868) felt when he removed a kidney by mistake, taking it for a solid ovarian tumor. Although the patient died on the third day of peritonitis, two lessons have been learned by his mistake. First, the feasibility of nephrectomy, and, second, that the urine was secreted abundantly by the other kidney.

Spencer Wells' case also died, but not from suppression of urine.

The following year (1869), Simon, of Heidelberg, purposely and successfully attacked the kidney for a ureteral fistula in a woman. I have no doubt that his experiments on dogs in this line better fitted him to successfully perform the operation.

Within seven years after the first removal of a kidney by Peaslee, no less than 233 nephrectomies were collected by Gross. It would take some considerable time to reckon the number of nephrectomies up to date. The operation was extended beyond its reasonable and legitimate limits. Chief among the indications for the removal of a kidney were stone, pyonephrosis, hydronephrosis, tuberculosis, floating kidney, nephralgia, hematuria, and tumors.

Nephrotomy for stone (nephrolithotomy) was first performed by Morris of London, only twenty-three years ago, (Feb., 1880). Then nephrotomy gradually supplanted nephrectomy in many cases.