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## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

### GENERAL CYSTIC DEGENERATION OF THE KIDNEY.

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This unusual specimen of cystic kidney was sent me by Dr. R. B. Nevitt, who had removed it from a woman 25 years of age. The history is briefly as follows:—Patient consulted Dr. Nevitt for a moveable tumour in the left side of the abdomen with intermittent pain in that region.

*Family History.*—Negative.

*Personal History.*—No serious illness. At age of 13 years fell upon an upturned chair and one of the legs appears to have entered the body by either vagina or rectum. She was laid up for some time under a doctor's care. Since that time there had been pain in the left side. Menstruated at 13 years, always regular but painful, lasting five or six days. The pain was referred to the back and region of the tumour.

In the left side of the abdomen is a mass, freely moveable upwards, downwards and slightly inward. The upper edge lies just above the anterior superior spine of the ilium, and this can be moved upward to beneath the costal margin. The lower margin descends deeply into the pelvis. The mass is dull on percussion, and surrounded by a zone of resonance, even below, along Poupart's ligament. The uterus is displaced to the right, but free from solid or cystic enlargement. At operation this kidney was removed. The patient died some days after, the result of an infection, but unfortunately no autopsy was permitted. I find later that the patient was conscious of the tumour about two years ago.

The organ measures 6 x 4½ x 3 inches, weight 1 lb. 5½ oz. The general outline is fairly well preserved. Surface is very irregular, the irregularity being caused by numerous rounded, smooth, fluctuating elevations scattered uniformly, and varying in size. The capsule is slightly thickened, but strips off readily, and beneath it is found a dense chocolate-colored renal tissue, studded everywhere with cysts, containing clear amber fluid, enclosed in a thin transparent wall. The largest is 1½ by 1