CASE
OF
A RARE SPECIES OF
HYDATID,
(THE *ECHINOCOCCUS HOMINIS*),
FOUND IN THE HUMAN LIVER.

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JAMES HAVELL, a muscular well-formed man, aged 71, was admitted into the London Hospital 18th Feb. 1840, labouring under an affection of the urinary organs. He died March 18th. On examination of the body, the left sterno-clavicular articulation was found destroyed, the cartilages and ligaments being ulcerated, and the joint in a state of suppuration. The lungs were congested, and there were a few pleuritic adhesions on the left side. The kidneys were large, flabby, and slightly granular. There was a small pouch at the fundus of the bladder, and a stricture in the urethra.

On opening the abdomen, my attention was attracted by a cyst connected with the margin of the left lobe of the liver. It caused a tumour projecting from the gland, which was slightly adherent to the peritoneum, covering the pylorus and commencement of the duodenum. This cyst was of an oval figure, and measured about $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in its long diameter and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in the other. A section displayed an old hydatid cyst varying in thickness in different parts, and fibro-cartilaginous in structure, lined by a soft loose albuminous membrane enclosing a large number of separate hydatid cysts of various sizes from that of a pea to that of a large cherry, surrounded by and floating in a transparent fluid. These cysts which were exactly similar in structure to the *acephalocyst*, being white, opaque, and divisible into layers, were also found to contain a perfectly limpid fluid which remained unaltered in appearance after one of the hydatids had been immersed for several minutes in boiling water. On opening a cyst there escaped a large number of small white particles, some of which were found floating in the fluid within ; whilst others were in contact with the inner surface of the membrane composing it. The latter appeared like grains of white sand thickly studded over the interior of the cyst. On examination in the microscope, these little bodies were ascertained to be the vermiculi of the *Echinococcus*,* all the characters of which were very distinctly perceived. They presented various

* They were detected by my friend Mr. John Quekett.

appearances, according to the position of the animal submitted to examination. In some, of which we had a lateral view, we could see the prominent head surrounded by a circle of hooklets, two of the four obtuse processes or suckers and the round caudal cyst behind. The average length of these as measured by a micrometer was one eightieth of an inch. In others again of which we had apparently an anterior view, the entire circle of hooklets were clearly discerned ; in these the obtuse processes were invisible. Some of the animals represented in the plate seemed to be in a less advanced state of development. A number of them of various forms were collected within thin pellucid vesicles or cysts, which being ruptured allowed of the escape of the animalcules, and a multitude of minute rounded particles immiscible in the surrounding fluid. During the examination I observed in the field of the microscope several detached spines which were sharp-pointed and slightly incurvated. Nothing was observed capable of throwing light on the mode in which these animalcules are developed. The containing hydatid is not propagated like the *acephalocyst* of man, in which the gemmule is detached from the interior of the cyst, but the young cyst is excluded from the external surface. In some of the larger specimens two or three young cysts of the size of currants were observed in progress of development between the layers of the parent cyst.

I have not been able to meet with any account of a case in which this rare and curious hydatid has

been noticed in this country.* In the Hunterian Collection, there is a preparation of the *Echinococcus Hominis* described in the printed catalogue† as “Hydatids, on the inside of which are small ones; human: two preparations;” but on inquiry of Professor Owen I find that there is no further account of it. The *Echinococcus Hominis* has been observed in only a very few instances on the continent, and neither Rudolphi nor Bremser had met with it. A well authenticated example of its occurrence in the human brain is published by Rendtorf in a Thesis on Hydatids.‡ The account given of the animalcules discovered in that case is very imperfect and in the plate in which they are represented, but by no means well, only the coronet of hooklets is figured; the obtuse processes or suctorious mouths are not apparent. Müller has more recently described the case of a young man treated by Professor Necker for renal disease who voided with his urine a large number of these peculiar hydatid cysts. His description of the animalcules within them is minute, and accords very closely with this account which I have given of them, as observed in this case. He remarks however that the vermiculi were not present

* Since this case was read, I have found in the Medical Gazette (vol. xiii. p. 207.) a brief notice of a case of abscess in the liver, discharging echinococci through an opening in the parietes of the abdomen, by Mr. Rose of Swaffham, Norfolk.

† Part IV. Fascic. 1, No. 230.

‡ I have not been able to consult the original Thesis; but a pretty full account of the case, with a plate, is given by De Blainville in an appendix to his translation of Bremser's work on Worms.

in all the hydatid cysts, but that the cysts which contained them were exactly similar to those which were devoid of them.* In the case which I have here related the animalcules were detected in all the cysts examined in the microscope.

* Archiv. für Physiol. (Jahresbericht), p. 106. 1836.