AN ACCOUNT
OF SOME
RENAL CALCULI
OF UNUSUAL SHAPE
FOUND IN THE LEFT KIDNEY OF A WOMAN WHO DIED
OF CANCER OF THE UTERUS, ETC.

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COMMUNICATED BY
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IN February, 1872, a woman was admitted into the London Hospital under the care of Mr. Couper for spontaneous fracture of the neck of the left femur, the result of cancer, which, originating in the uterus, had spread through the sacro-sciatic foramina and involved the soft structures round the left hip with the upper part of the left femur. She was moribund when admitted and there was nothing to attract attention specially to her kidneys, any pain that she complained of being very naturally referred to the disease of her uterus.

She died soon after her admission, and on making the

post-mortem examination I found the upper part of the pelvis filled with a cancerous mass which pressed upon, and obliterated her left ureter ; on removing the left kidney, and making a section in the usual manner, I found the pelvis enormously distended, the medullary portion almost altogether absorbed, and the cortical substance the seat of acute suppurative nephritis. The upper part of the left ureter was occupied by a large conical mulberry calculus and the distended pelvis contained eleven calculi ; the remarkable shape of which induces me to bring then under the notice of your society. (See Plate IV.)

The calculi all felt soft and greasy when first removed from the kidney and some greatly resembled biliary calculi. The projections on the surface of the large calculus were unusually acuminate, and the rest consisted of a central globular body with four or five prominent spines. In five the central mass was about the size of a black currant, and the spines were short and stunted. In the remaining six the central part was smaller and the spines longer and more tapering. Three had a very symmetrical tripod base with a single erect central spine. The other three had much the same general outline but with one or more additional and shorter spines. The pelvis of the right kidney contained a single oblong spiculated calculus which has been analysed for me by Dr. Tidy, assistant to the Lecturer on Chemistry at the London Hospital Medical College. The results of his analysis are as follows :

Moisture	.	.	.	9.55	per cent.
Oxalates	.	.	.	8.72	„
Lithates	.	.	.	34.8	„
Chlorine	.	.	.	3.22	„
Sulphuric acid	.	.	.	4.56	„
Phosphates	.	.	.	a trace	„
Fat and Cholesterine	.	.	.	36.56	„
Loss	.	.	.	2.59	„
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					100.00

Mr. Curling has kindly informed me that there is a some-

what similar specimen of renal calculi in the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons. They are much smaller, with very fine and delicate spines. They are numbered c78 in the catalogue and are described as being composed of oxalate of lime. They were found in the kidney of a patient in whom the only noticeable feature during life was albuminuria. I cannot offer any explanation of the unusual shape of these calculi, which appear to be too symmetrical to have been formed accidentally.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE IV.

Renal calculi described in the foregoing case.