known, most frequently in the pyloric portion, yet no part of the organ is exempt from its ravages. In the present instance the entire lesser curvature, including both the cardiac and pyloric orifices of the stomach, was much thickened by carcinomatous change of structure, and exhibited interiorly a ragged and ulcerated surface. In short, the ravages of cancerous disorganisation had obviously annihilated the functions of the organ.

The post-mortem examination was executed in my presence by Mr. Wallis, who, having seen this report of the case, attests its substantial accuracy as to all the anatomical details. He has also kindly furnished me with the following notes of his own, taken on his return home after the inspection of the body:—

“On opening the abdomen, and reflecting the omentum majus, a fleshy-colored tumor presented itself in the umbilical region, covered by a layer of peritonæum. On removing this covering, the kidney presented itself not united by an isthmus, as is sometimes the case, but placed transversely across the spinal column resting on the third lumbar vertebra. The renal arteries arose from the *anterior* surface of the aorta; the left a little below the right, and entered the middle portion at a distance of about two inches from each other, where the pelves were situate. The renal veins ascended some distance, and communicated with the vena cava ascendens, the left reaching higher than the right. A third renal artery arose from the aorta, just above the bifurcation, and, after ascending, subdivided into two branches in the central portion near the pelves; the blood from this vessel was returned by the renal veins. The two ureters descended in front of the kidney.

COINCIDENCE OF ALBUMINURIA AND PUERPERAL CONVULSIONS.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—As the following case is a good illustration of the coincidence of albuminuria and puerperal convulsions, perhaps you will deem it worthy of insertion in your Journal:—

E. G., aged twenty, unmarried, and pregnant for the first time, a stout, healthy-looking woman, had passed through eight months of gestation in the enjoyment of perfect health. During the last month, however, she became universally anasarcaous, her face even being much swollen and pallid; for a week previous to her confinement she had suffered much from headache. On the 4th of January last she was delivered by a midwife of a living female child, her labor being easy and natural. Almost immediately after delivery she became hysterical, crying and sobbing violently; this state lasted nearly an hour, and then terminated in a regular convulsion, speedily followed by a second. I was summoned, and, on my arrival, found her in a half unconscious state, breathing heavily, and complaining of great pain in the head, the pupils dilated and sluggish, and her pulse quick, sharp, and bounding. She almost immediately had another violent convulsion; when this had subsided I opened a vein in her arm; after about twenty ounces

had been drawn the pulse suddenly failed, and of course the vein was closed. Two drops of croton oil were given, and her legs wrapped in mustard poultices. After three-quarters of an hour had elapsed she had another violent convulsion. As the pulse had again risen, I opened the vein, but not more than six ounces of blood had escaped before the pulse again failed. She now became much more sensible, and said the pain in her head was better. I ordered an enema to be administered directly, and left her. At the expiration of three hours I again saw her, and found that she had had three convulsions; she was now more insensible than I had yet seen her, her pupils dilated, and breathing laborious. With her pale, bloated face, and the cold, doughy surface of her body, she bore a striking resemblance to a person laboring under the coma of Bright's disease; the pulse had become sharp and hard, so that I abstracted twenty ounces more blood. Very soon after this blood-letting she became more sensible, answered me rationally, and expressed herself much relieved of the pain in her head. The first drawn blood was highly buffed and cupped; that from the last two bleedings not at all so.

The enema had acted well. I now gave her a quarter of a grain of antim. pot. tart. every half hour. She fell asleep for some hours, and slept quietly, but very frequently, and for hours after, the muscles of the face were convulsed, although she had no more general convulsion.

No urine was *secreted* for nearly forty-eight hours after her delivery; at the expiration of that time I drew off about six ounces of very thick urine, which was highly albuminous. For the next four days the discharge of urine was abundant; the quantity of albumen in it diminished rapidly, and at the end of a week there was not a trace of it; the anasarca also had disappeared entirely.

The medical treatment pursued was the administration of two grains of hydrarg. chlor., and a quarter of a grain of antim. pot. tart., every four hours, with one drachm of mag. sulph. ex. liq. ammon. acet. After three days all medicines were discontinued; her gums were very slightly affected by the mercury.

Of the fourteen cases of puerperal convulsions, recorded by Dr. Lever as occurring in Guy's Lying-in Charity, thirteen were accompanied with albuminuria. This coincidence, first observed by that gentleman, is a most interesting fact, especially as the convulsions bear so marked a resemblance to those which frequently precede the death of patients suffering under Bright's disease of the kidney. It is very desirable that all those who meet with cases of puerperal convulsions should carefully examine and record the state of the urine; in this way a mass of observations might be soon collected, from which a more correct and definite pathology of this fearful disease could be deduced.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CALEB ROSE.

Swaffham, Norfolk, Jan. 30, 1844.