LARGE RENAL CALCULUS.

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At an autopsy recently upon the body of an elderly lady, seventy-six years of age, I removed the largest renal calculi I have ever seen. The enclosed photograph is a representation of the actual size of the calculous mass removed from the left kidney. The mass weighed seven and one-half ounces. In the right kidney was found a similarly shaped formation weighing five ounces; the latter crumbled while being removed. They are apparently largely composed of the phosphate of lime.

Medical Progress.

RECENT PROGRESS IN PHYSIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY.

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THYROID CHEMISTRY.

SINCE the discovery of the relation between disordered states of the thyroid secretion and certain pathological conditions of the organism, and the resulting use of thyroid therapy, great interest has developed in regard to the physiological action of the thyroid se-

About thirty years ago, the lady from whose body the calculi were taken had an acute nephritis from which she apparently recovered within a few weeks, and was able to be about ever afterward, except that occasionally she was confined to her bed for a few days at a time, until within two months of her death, which was finally caused by uremia. For twenty-five years her urine contained pus in large quantities, and often she had quite profuse hematuria.

During the thirty years intervening between the first attack of nephritis and her final illness—two months previous to her death—she never had headache, anorexia, anasarca or insomnia. I never knew her to have chills or increase of temperature. She was a healthy-looking woman, except for a constant paleness of complexion.

The kidneys were greatly distended, forming two large sacs, each holding more than a pint, and both filled with pus.

cretions, and to the chemical nature of the substance to which this action is due.

Of the investigations in regard to the nature of the physiologically active substance of the thyroid, that of Baumann has given the most satisfactory results.¹

This author has isolated a definite substance from the thyroid glands of man and of animals, thyrojojin, or jodothyrim, which produces upon the organism, according to his experimental researches, the same effects which are obtained by the administration of the fresh thyroid gland.

Thyrojojin is an organic iodine compound containing 9.3 percent. of iodine. The ultimate analysis of the compound is not published. It contains P_2O_5 and nitrogen, and does not give the reaction for proteid, resembling a disintegration product of nucleinic acid. It exists in the gland, in part free and in part in combination with proteids.

¹ Baumann: Zeitschr. f. Phys. Chemie, Bd. xxI, s. 319.