of the first dose; if in these cases the placenta should follow the fœtus immediately; if the hæmorrhage consequent to the placental separation were less than ordinary, and the *after-pains* greater than usual, then I would admit the ergot to be a "momentous medicine;" and, if he were the experimenter, that Mr. Lanyon, of Lostwithiel, was its most successful champion.

I remain, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
W. A. WALFORD.
39, Speldhurst Street, Burton Crescent,
March 27th, 1830.

DISEASE OF THE KIDNEYS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following case is very illustrative of the great difficulty of diagnosis in visceral diseases of the human body, and shows how mistaken the most eminent men in the profession may occasionally be in forming their opinions; I beg leave, therefore, to request that you will insert it in your valuable and widely-circulated journal.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

WILLIAM DUNN.

Welton Terrace, Southwark.

Rhoda Freeman, aged 23, of sanguineous temperament, and short stature, was repeatedly attacked (according to her own, and relatives' account) when a child, with a violent pain in the right side of the abdomen, accompanied with excessive vomiting, headach, and frequent and difficult micturition. The urine, after standing some time, deposited a thick matter, which adhered to the sides of the vessel. About nine years ago the above symptoms became more frequent and distressing; and about fifteen months back, she was obliged to leave her situation as a servant. She was under medical treatment, for (as she was told) a tumour on the liver. Finding herself get worse, she resolved to try a hospital, and was accordingly admitted into Bartholomew's in August last, where she remained upwards of three months, and there understood she was afflicted with lumbar abscess (by hospital report, disease of the ovary). So soon as she left the hospital, about three months ago, she became anasarcaous, the pain in the right side, and the tumour got worse, attended with violent vomiting, diarrhœa, and hiccups. About three weeks before she died, Mr. Coulthred was called in, and found her labouring under the above symptoms; with aphtha, intermittent,

irregular pulse, muco-purulent discharge from the bladder, and colliquative sweats. About a fortnight before she died, the dropsical effusion disappeared, and she became very much emaciated, and died on the 16th of February. The catamenial discharge had been irregular and deficient for twelve months previous. We examined the body twenty-four hours after death, and the following appearances presented themselves. Externally, the features appeared anxious, and there was an enlargement of the right side of the abdomen, extending from the umbilicus to the spine, and occupying the hypocondriac and iliac regions, where fluctuation was very apparent. Upon laying open the abdominal cavity, which was done by making an incision from the scrobiculus cordis to the pubes, and then from the umbilicus towards the spine, a large tumour presented itself, occupying a great portion of the above regions; it was found adherent to the peritoneal lining of the abdominal muscles, colon, pylorus, and concave surface of the right lobe of the liver; that part which was adherent to the liver, occupied the space of about the size of half a crown. Upon dissecting out this tumour, it was found to be the capsule of the right kidney, distended with pus, the substance of the kidney being completely absorbed. The tumour was divided into five different cells, which communicated with each other by small orifices, and contained, in the whole, upwards of a pint and a half of pus; there were found in these different cells seventeen stones, the largest of which was of an irregular shape, and weighed sixty-four grains; the others were of smaller dimensions (about the size of small peas). The ureter and renal artery were found considerably enlarged. The left kidney was about three times its natural size, though not materially changed in its structure. The mucous membrane of the bladder was found much inflamed, and thickened, and contained a quantity of muco-purulent matter.

The mucous membrane of the stomach presented a mottled appearance, with inflammation, and aphthous ulcerations of the cardiac and pyloric orifices; the mucous membrane of the duodenum and other intestines, exhibited nearly the same appearances.

The pancreas was cartilaginous, and partially scirrhus.

The mesenteric glands were much enlarged.

The uterus and its appendages particularly small.

The remaining viscera of the abdomen and thorax perfectly healthy; the lungs and liver particularly so.