The Curative Action of Minor Operations in Renal Affections. By Dr. OSCAR BLOCH (Copenhagen). The writer describes three cases where exploratory incision was made in order to clear up the diagnosis of obscure renal conditions, and where a minor surgical procedure was also done, as the separation of adhesions, binding the fibrous capsule to its fatty investment, incision of the renal tissue, which was apparently cystically degenerated, cross section of cicatricial tissue, extending down into the substance of the kidney and resembling an old infarct. All these procedures, to which were added puncture with a moderately large needle, have been without injury to the patient. Two of the patients were apparently definitely cured, the one with perinephritic adhesions being seen about two years after the operation and the other nine months after, while the third, apparently suffering from stone in the kidney, though no stone could be found, was only three months under observation since the operation. One patient, in whom there were numerous symptoms, was relieved of them by the operative measure. Here a psychic influence is undoubted. The second, who presented the signs of pyelitis and nephrolithiasis, together with a multitude of nervous symptoms, was not only relieved of her nervousness, but also of the kidney disease. In this case punctures were made and the capsule accidentally bursted, which undoubtedly improved the renal circulation and relieved the tension. The third patient, in which case the cicatricial tissue was split by a cracial incision, was relieved, and if it continues to be definitive the pains must have been due to incarceration of the ends of the nerves in the cicatrix. In all three the effect of the operation was that of a powerful revulsive, and though one cannot explain the action of revulsives, yet one must acknowledge their powerful influence. The writer places great weight on the psychic influence of an exploratory incision in obscure kidney diseases of a surgical nature, and here sometimes one may expect great results from small, slight surgical procedures, which are of no danger to the patient.—*Hospitals Tidende*, No. 1, 1892.

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