

A curious mixture of bad pathology and good surgery is presented by a case reported in the Virginia Medical Monthly for October, by Dr. Wilkerson, under the following startling caption: "Incision into the pelvis of the kidney and treatment topically through the drainage tube, for the cure of Bright's disease." The patient, a man aged thirty, had received an injury of the back, and six months after began to fail in health, became emaciated, had hectic, and passed blood and pus in the urine. Deep palpation on the right side gave an indistinct sense of fluctuation. Lumbar nephrotomy was performed, over a pint of matter was discharged, the sac was swabbed out, and a drainage tube inserted. The man made a good recovery. The case was evidently one of pyelonephrosis, and the treatment pursued most judicious and successful. It is remarkable how deep-rooted is the idea that all affections of the kidney belong to Bright's disease; fortunately for the patient, the doctor's surgery was at least half a century in advance of his pathology, and it is a pity that the report of so interesting a case should be marred by a title both misleading and erroneous.\*

Medical News, Oct 1 23, 1886, xlix, 463.