

II. *An uncommon Dropſy from the Want of a Kidney; and a Deſcription of a large Saccus that contain'd the Water, by Samuel Glaſs, Surgeon, at Oxford; ſent to Dr. Mead.*

November 11, 1746.

Read Jan. 8.  
1746-7.

**M**ARY Nix, who lived at *Hampton-Poyle*, a ſmall Village in *Oxfordſhire*, had been remarkable all her Life for the preternatural Size of her Belly. After her Death, I had the Curioſity, together with ſome learned Gentlemen of the Univerſity, to inſpect her Body. Her Mother was then preſent, and inform'd us, that this her Daughter was born dropſical; that ſhe herſelf had been ill of the ſame Diſeaſe for ſome time before, and during, her Pregnancy; but, on the Birth of this Child, ſhe was freed from that Diſorder.

The Child, tho' born dropſical, prov'd otherwiſe healthy; and, notwithſtanding the Diſeaſe continually increaſed as ſhe grew up, liv'd to be near twenty-three Years of Age.

She was a tall well-proportion'd Woman, except with Regard to the enormous Size of her Belly; and, for one of ſo unwieldy a Bulk, healthy, brisk, and active. Her Appetite was always good, and ſhe was never more than ordinarily thirſty; had no remarkable Difficulty of Breathing, not even when ſhe lay ſupine, nor did her Thighs or Legs ever ſwell. Her *Menſes*, which appear'd at the uſual Time of Life, continued regular, till within eight Months of her Death. The only Complaint was now-and then a

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Pain

Pain in making Water; and the Quantity she made was commonly about four or five Ounces.

Upon the Suppression of her *Catamenia*, there succeeded a *Dyspnæa*, Loss of Appetite, Emaciation of the superior Parts, and a Tumefaction of one of her Legs with Ulcerations. These Symptoms gradually increased till her Death.

Upon taking the Dimensions of her Body before Dissection, we found the Circumference of her *Abdomen* to be just six Feet four Inches, and from the *Xyphoid* Cartilage to the *Os Pubis* it measur'd four Feet and half an Inch. The cutaneous Vessels, distributed upon the *Abdomen*, were remarkably large, and distended with Blood, and the spurious Ribs were pressed greatly outwards and upwards.

After this general View of the external Parts, we began the Dissection, by dividing the Cartilages of the six superior Ribs, and raising the *Sternum*. The *Thorax* being laid open, we observed that the Diaphragm was forcibly protruded into that Cavity. The Base of the Heart lay under the right Clavicle, and its *Apex* upon the most convex Part of the Diaphragm; which Convexity advanced as high up as the third superior Rib. The Lungs were surprisngly small, scarce exceeding in Magnitude those of a new-born Child. The right Lobe slightly adher'd to the *Pleura*, the left was free, and both were in a sound State. Within the *Pericardium* was found, as usual, a small Quantity of Liquor, but none in the Cavity of the *Thorax*.

We next perforated the *Abdomen* in the most convenient depending Part, and evacuated from thence a surprisng Quantity of Water, which was lightly tinged

tinged of a Coffee-Colour, limpid as Urine, and not in the least fetid. This Water was carefully measur'd, and found to be not above a Pint less than thirty Gallons Wine Measure; which must weigh, according to the common Calculation, near 240 *l*.

We afterwards made an Incision into the *Abdomen* along the *Linea alba*. The Integuments upon the epigastric Region were very thin; the abdominal Muscles much extenuated; and above the *Umbilicus* the *Tunica cellulosa* contain'd no Fat; but from the Navel to the *Os Pubis*, the *Panniculus adiposus* was half an Inch thick. Upon dilating the Incision, the large membranous Bag that contain'd the Water presented itself to View, adhering transversely about ten Inches to the anterior Part of the *Peritoneum*.

This Adhesion being separated, we had a full View of this wonderful Reservoir, which was of an enormous Size, and had almost occupied the whole Cavity of the *Abdomen*. In Figure, Colour, Thickness, Number, Magnitude, and Distribution of Blood vessels, it very much resembled the *Uterus* of a Cow at the End of Gestation. The whole Inside was scabrous, and look'd as if parboil'd; and here and there was observ'd a small Quantity of a Coffee-colour'd Sediment. On the left inferior Part was discover'd the Orifice of a Duct, which open'd obliquely into the Cavity of the *Saccus*, and would easily admit of a large Goose-Quill. From this Opening the Tube advanc'd about twelve Inches between the Membranes of the Bag obliquely upwards, and towards the right, from whence it was inflected downwards, and pass'd between the Duplicature of  
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the *Ligamentum latum Uteri*, to be inserted into the Bladder of Urine. The *Saccus* was connected to the *Ligamentum suspensorium Hepatis*, to a considerable Part of the *Mesocolon*, to the *Peritonæum* on the right Side in two or three different Places, to the same Membrane the whole Length of the Spine, and to the *Ligamentum latum Uteri* on the right Side of the Body.

The Liver was found, but less than in a natural State; and its convex Part adher'd closely to the Diaphragm. The Stomach, Spleen, *Omentum*, small Intestines, and the upper Part of the *Colon*, were thrust very high up into the left *Hypochondrium*. The Convolutions of the lower Part of the same Intestine were intirely obliterated; and that, together with the *Rectum*, formed one continued strait Tube, from the left *Hypochondrium* down to the *Anus*. The left Kidney, with its emulgent Vessels and *Ureter*, were in their natural State and Situation. The *Uterus*, *Tuba Fallopiana*, and *Ovarium*, on the same Side, had nothing preternatural; but, on the right Side, the *Fallopian* Tube and Ovary were dispos'd in a very extraordinary Manner. The Tube, by means of the Adhesion of the *Ligamentum latum Uteri* to the *Saccus*, was extended to three times its ordinary Length. The Ovary was likewise, by the same Cause, render'd very preternatural, being no less than five Inches three Quarters long, one Inch broad, two Tenths of an Inch thick, and two Inches and half distant from the *Uterus*. The Bladder of Urine was very small, but appear'd to be found.

We then made an accurate Search for the right Kidney; but, to our great Surprize, found no  
such

such *Viscus*, nor any thing analogous to it, unless the *Saccus* that contain'd the Water already describ'd, may be esteem'd such: And what seem'd to favour this Opinion, was the Disposition of the emulgent Vessels on the right Side, which were propagated from the *Aorta* and *Vena cava* to this *Saccus*, in the same manner as to the Kidney on the opposite Side; and, after having ran twelve or fourteen Inches between the Membranes of the Bag without any Ramifications, were distributed all over it in the Manner before-mention'd.

From the foregoing Account the following Queries are naturally suggested, which I leave to the Determination of the Learned:

*Query 1.* Was not the *Saccus* originally a mis-shapen Kidney, and the Duct a *Ureter*?

*Query 2.* Was not the Water contained in the *Saccus* prevented from growing putrid, by being continually drain'd off thro' the Duct into the Bladder of Urine, and by being afresh supplied by the emulgent Artery; and more being secreted than was evacuated, the Quantity thereby continually increased?

*Query 3.* Was not this the Reason why the Patient had never any anasarcaous Swellings of her Thighs or Legs, nor any Thirst, or other Signs of a confirm'd Dropsy?

*Query 4.* Were not the Lungs prevented from growing by the great Diminution of the Cavity of the *Thorax*, and the Pressure they sustain'd from the distended *Abdomen*? And might not their never having occupied a larger Space than they did at Birth, be the Reason she never labour'd under any Difficulty of Breathing?

*Query*

*Query 5.* Was not the Bladder of Urine likewise by the superincumbent Weight, prevented from dilating itself; and that the Reason why the Water was often made, and always in so small a Quantity?

In order to convey a more clear Idea of the several Parts already describ'd, to those who may not have an Opportunity of inspecting them (they being properly preserved for that Purpose), and being sensible of the great Difficulty of clearly representing by Words such Things as are out of the ordinary Course of Nature, I must beg Leave to refer the Reader to the Figures hereto annex'd.

See TAB. I.

FIG. I.

- aaaa*, The great *Saccus* that contain'd the Water.
- bb*, The greater Diameter of the *Saccus*.
- cc*, The lesser Diameter.
- d*, A prick'd Line shews the Entrance of the emulgent Vessels.
- ef*, Shews the Course of the Duct between the Membranes of the *Saccus*.
- f*, The Orifice opening obliquely into the Cavity.
- eg*, The inflected Part of the Duct, after its Egress from the *Saccus*, which pass'd between the *Ligamentum latum Uteri* to the Bladder of Urine.
- g*, The Duct, divided near the Bladder, where its Cavity was so small as only to admit of a common-siz'd Probe.

FIG.

FIG. 2.

Represents the posterior View of the *Uterus*, *Fallopian* Tubes, and Ovary.

*aa*, The *Uterus*.

*A*, The *Os Tineæ*.

*bc*, The *Fallopian* Tube in a natural State.

*c*, The *Morsus Diaboli*.

*d*, The left Ovary in a natural State.

*ee*, The *Ligamentum rotundum*.

*fg*, The right *Fallopian* Tube.

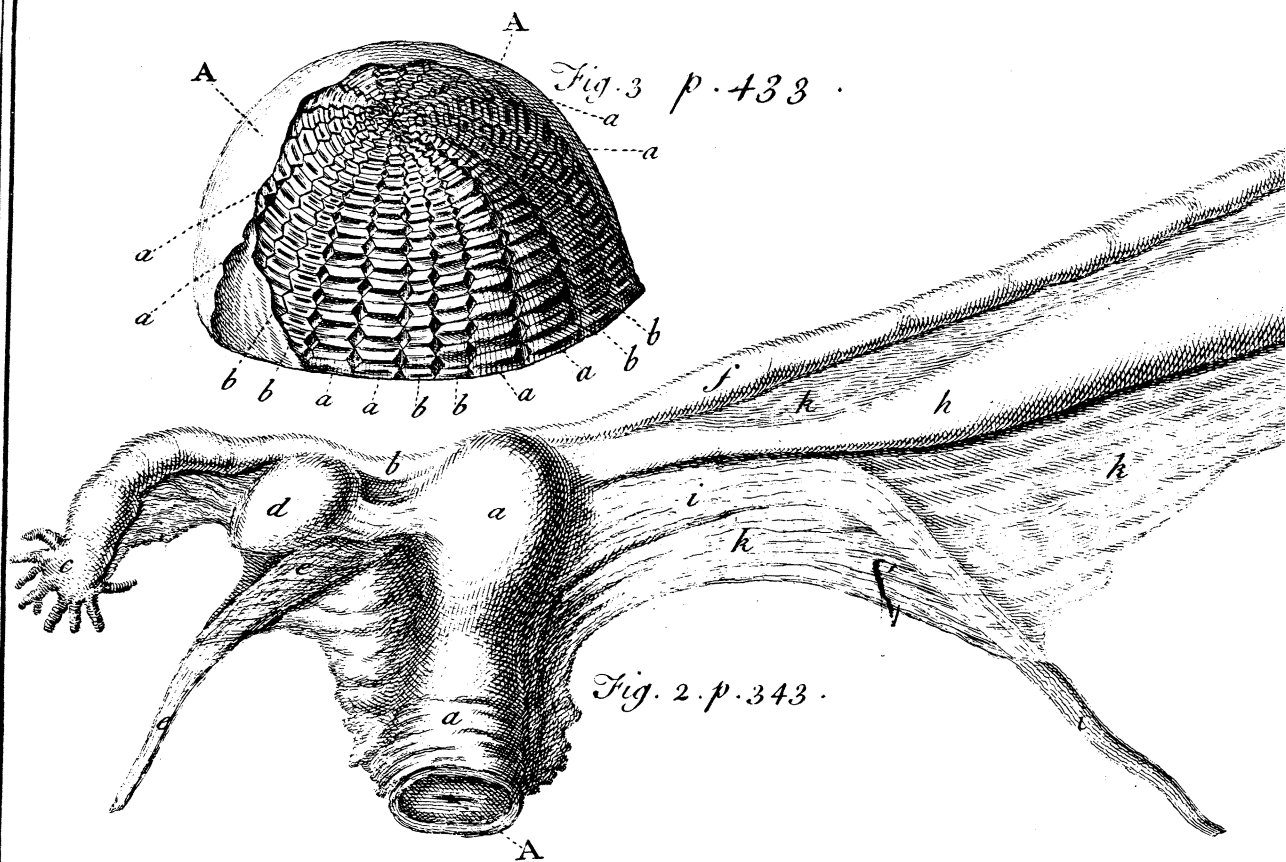
*g*, The *Morsus Diaboli*.

*hh*, The right Ovary.

*ii*, The *Ligamentum rotundum*.

*kkkk*, The *Ligamentum latum Uteri*.

*ll*, Its Adhesion to the *Saccus*.



1 2 3 4 Inches

