

it has evidently been by an excessive development of intertubular tissue in the medullary or rather the papillary portion of the organ. Whether this has been inflammatory or not, is not so clear; but, from absence of any other signs of inflammation, such as adhesion of the capsule, it has in all probability been merely an excessive development of the intertubular tissue derived from the prevertebral. The tubules have evidently excreted a certain quantity of fluid; and this, along with the atresia of the papillæ, furnishes the factors for a cystic degeneration. The enormous size of the organs is due to—(1.) The large number of cysts; (2.) The increase in the intertubular tissue.

Dr MATTHEWS DUNCAN communicated, for Dr HUNTER of Jedburgh, A CASE OF LABOUR COMPLICATED BY PROLAPSE OF THE LEG.

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ON THE NATURE AND MECHANISM OF SPONTANEOUS RUPTURE OF THE UTERUS IN ITS CERVICAL PORTION.

By ANGUS MACDONALD, M.D.

JULY 11, 1877.

Now nearly six years ago, I received the accompanying uterus and notes from my friend Dr Philip Hair of Carlisle. The specimen and the notes were accompanied among other things with the expression that Dr Hair hoped that I would be able to throw some light upon the causation of this rupture, and that the preparation might be a useful addition to my museum. It was carefully laid aside as a valuable specimen—the unfortunate fate of very much excellent material, that had far better be cut up and described—but I did not at that time feel competent to explain the mechanism of the rupture.

But many things have happened since 1871; and among other evidences of progress in the department of scientific midwifery, our knowledge of the nature and causation of rup-