

BLACK MASSES CONNECTED WITH AN OVARIAN CYST.—Miss B—, aged 40, had been complaining for seven months of symptoms referable to the ovary. A multilocular cyst of the right ovary was diagnosed by Mr. Spencer Wells, and ovariectomy was performed on the 9th of May last. The operation was conducted in the usual manner. Toward its close a little black mass of about the size, shape, and consistence of a split pea was removed from the abdomen, but much attention was not paid to the circumstance at the time. The patient sank on the third day with symptoms of septicæmia, and the body was inspected thirty-two hours after death. After having ascertained the condition of the pedicle on the right side, the hand was passed along the left broad ligament, to determine the state of the left ovary. No distinct ovary was to be felt, but in its place a pouch containing gritty particles.

On a more minute investigation it was found that the left ovary had been converted into a cyst capable of containing a small Normandy pippin. The wall of the cyst had an average thickness of an eighth of an inch, and on being bent, crackled like parchment. The lining membrane was intensely black, and projected in folds into the cavity of the cyst. Posteriorly the wall had given way, and there existed a round, smoothly-edged aperture one and a half inches in diameter. The cavity of the cyst was empty as regards fluid, but to the lining membrane clung several little black masses similar to the one which had been observed during the operation.

The same black substances were found in Douglas' space. They varied in size from that of a bean to a mere pin point, the smaller ones being the more numerous, and from twenty to thirty may have been present altogether. They were hard, lustreless, and perfectly black, not unlike drops of black sealing-wax. A portion of one of them was examined by Dr. Lionel S. Beale, and found to consist of inspissated and altered blood. It exhibited no structure. After being softened in water it appeared granular, and altered blood corpuscles were here and there detected, but no crystals of hæmatoidin were

found. The watery fluid filtered from the black deposit contained a little albumen.—*Archives of Medicine, London.*