

THE OCCURRENCE OF ACCESSORY LOBULES OF THE SPIGELIAN LOBE OF THE LIVER.

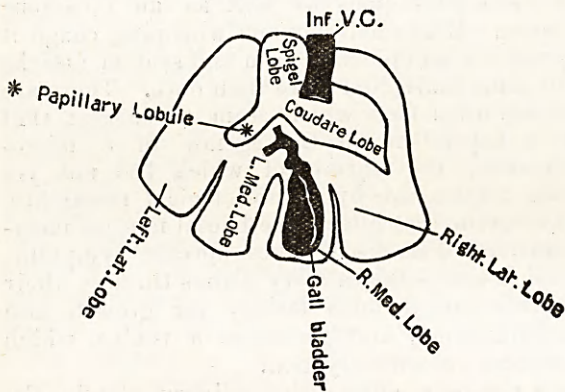
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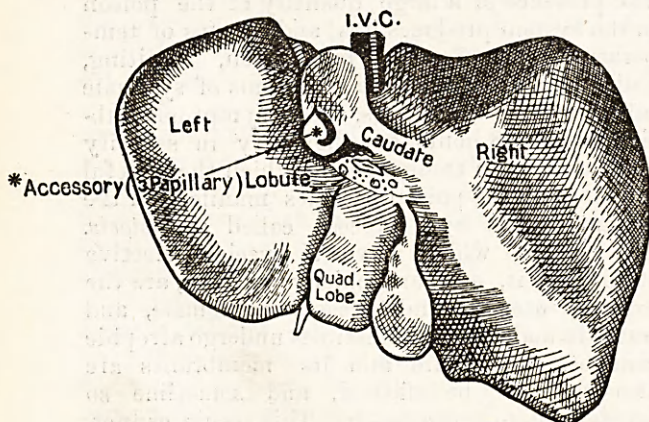
In the *Indian Medical Gazette* for May 1904, I reported a case of accessory lobule of the liver, and on two occasions again within the last two months I have come across the same abnormality while performing autopsies upon the bodies of native males in Bengal.

In the three cases which have come thus under my observation the condition has been practically identical, although there are minor differences in the contour of the lobule.



Thus, in my first case the accessory lobule consisted of a small pedunculated freely movable pyriform appendix of hepatic tissue,  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. long, springing from the left extremity of the spigelian lobe close to the transverse fissure, and overlying the ductus venosus, as shown in the illustration produced in Vol. XXXIX, No. 5, *Indian Medical Gazette*.

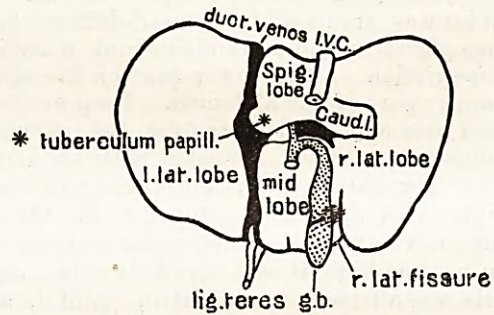
In the second case, observed in the body of an adult male on the 16th October last, the lobule was sessile, and formed a small bulbous excrescence,  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. long, in the same situation.



In the third case, which occurred in the body of a healthy young Bihari, aged about 19 years, who had been accidentally killed by falling

from a moving railway carriage on the 2nd November last, the abnormality took the form of an uniform process arising in a corresponding situation, with the point of the hook turned away from the transverse fissure backwards in the direction of the posterior aspect of the spigelian lobe, and lying mainly in the groove for the ductus venosus.

When I first came across this peculiarity it seemed an inexplicable freak of nature, but I have in the interval enjoyed the benefit of instruction in recent morphological work by Mr. Parsons of St. Thomas's Hospital, and Prof. Peter Thompson of King's College, and in the light of their teaching considerable interest appears to me to be attached to this little lobule, which I take to be the representative of the "papillary lobule" or "tuberculum papillare" sometimes traceable in European livers as a small swelling on the spigelian lobe at the left extremity of the transverse fissure.



The human liver is described as a development from a generalised mammalian type, composed of five lobes, viz., a *right lateral*, *right median*, *left median*, *left lateral*, and a *dorsal lobe* (developed round the inferior vena cava). This dorsal lobe is bifid where it bounds the transverse fissure dorsally, its left corner forming the *papillary lobule*, and its right corner the *caudate lobe*. The main part of the dorsal lobe constitutes the *spigelian lobe* of man. If my surmise is correct, the little outgrowth which forms the subject of this article is no abnormal development, but the persistent relic of the primitive type of the papillary lobule, as indicated in the rough diagram (Fig. 1).

In man, the right and median lobes fuse, but traces of the cleft between the right lateral and median lobes (the "right lateral fissure") are often persistent in the newborn infant.

Similarly the caudate lobe, which in many animals is large and conspicuous, becomes almost lost as a separate entity in the human viscus, and the papillary lobule likewise disappears in most cases, except for the small tubercle which sometimes indicates its situation mentioned above.

The morphological points referred to are shown in the accompanying figures (Figs. 2 & 3)