ABDOMEN.

VISCERA-No. 16.

KIDNEYS VIEWED FROM BEHIND, THE UPPER PAIR FROM A YOUNG SUBJECT, THE LOWER FROM AN ADULT.

The posterior surface of each kidney fits into an angular hollow by the side of the spine, and presents therefore a distinct vertical border which lies in the apex of this angle and divides the surface into an inner and an outer part.

The inner portion, which is narrow, is in apposition with the psoas muscle and the crus of the diaphragm, while the outer, directed backwards, rests against the diaphragm in its upper third, and the quadratus lumborum and the tendon of the transversalis in its lower two-thirds.

The posterior surface may also show a groove for the last rib, and dimples corresponding to the transverse processes of the first, second and third lumbar vertebræ, as well as a groove for the ligamentum arcuatum externum.

A indicates the left kidneys and B the right, and in each-

1 is the outer area of the posterior surface.

2 is the inner area of the posterior surface.



