ABDOMEN.

VISCERA-No. 12.

TWO SPLEENS, VIEWED FROM THE FRONT.

The shape of the spleen is largely determined by the condition of distension of adjacent organs, and especially of the stomach and splenic flexure of the colon, and also by the state of the organ itself, whether it is distended or contracted.

The two specimens figured here illustrate two different forms which it may assume. The spleen on the right is elongated, and was in contact with a stomach in a state of distension, while that on

the left is a more usual form, and was in relation to a stomach practically empty.

The visceral surface which is shown here, is divided into three areas by three borders which radiate from a blunted eminence called the internal basal angle. Of these areas, the gastric surface, which is the largest, is concave and lies in contact with the fundus of the stomach. On this surface is an elongated slit, called the hilum, by which the nerves and vessels enter the substance of the spleen. Behind the lower part of the hilum, is a small surface for the tail of the pancreas.

The renal surface lies to the back, and is flat. The remaining surface, called the basal surface,

is related to the splenic flexure of the colon, and the costo-colic ligament.

The anterior border is notched in a characteristic manner.

The figures indicate—

- 1. Anterior margin.
- 2. Gastric surface.
- 3. Intermediate border.
- 4. Renal surface.

- 5. Basal surface.
- 6. Splenic vessels, entering at the hilum.
- 7. Anterior basal angle.
- 8. Pancreatic surfaces.





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