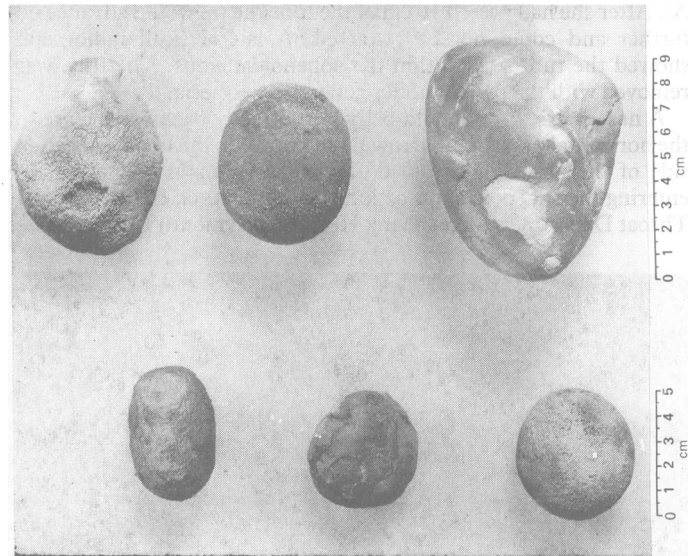


The rise in urolithiasis in Nigeria

Until very recently urinary stones were medical curiosities in Nigeria. But between January 1980 and December 1986 I saw 105 Nigerians with urinary stones, and each year the number has been increasing—from seven cases in 1980 to 33 in 1986. In 74 patients the stones were in the upper urinary tract and in 31 they were in the lower tract; two patients had stones in both upper and lower tracts (see radiograph, which shows a patient with bilateral renal staghorn calculi and a 650 g bladder stone); and one patient had stones in the kidney, ureter, and bladder. The mean weight of the stones was 23 g (range 0.06 g to 650 g), and a selection are shown in the figure below left; three were over 100 g and are shown in the figure below right. All the patients had seen other doctors, and 40% had initially been misdiagnosed. Ten had had their appendices removed without relief, and one had undergone a vagotomy and drainage. The patients with stones were appreciably heavier (66.6 (SD 18) kg) than age matched controls without stones attending the urological clinic, and the increase in urolithiasis probably reflects affluence and changing diet—more than 90% of the patients had lived in cities for over 10 years. Doctors in Nigeria must be aware that urinary stones are now becoming much commoner.—D N OSEGBE, Department of Surgery, Lagos University Teaching Hospital, PMB 12003, Lagos.



Hard labour: injury to wife and husband during forceps delivery

A 34 year old woman was admitted in labour. The baby lay in a transverse position and was delivered by a Kielland's forceps rotation. Local analgesia was not effective, and during delivery the patient grasped her husband's right arm as shown in the picture. At the moment of delivery the patient felt a tearing sensation in her perineum and in her right shoulder. A radiograph confirmed the clinical finding of an anteroinferior dislocation of the humeral head, which required reduction under general anaesthetic. Her husband noted a pattern of bruising on his arm corresponding to his wife's grip.—S R BOLLEN, J E ROBB, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, General Infirmary at Leeds, Leeds LS1 3EX.

