

## ON OVARIAN DROPSY AND ITS PROBABLE HEREDITARY TENDENCY.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—During the last two months we have had two sisters as patients, both suffering from ovarian dropsy. They state that their mother's sister had the same disease. This is, perhaps, something more than a coincidence, and seems to point to a hereditary tendency.

My friend, Dr. Matthews Duncan, of Edinburgh, in reply to a letter from me, states: "While I have no doubt that ovarian dropsy is to some extent hereditary, in common with other diseases, I have no evidence of any value to send you in proof of the point. Absolute proof can easily be imagined, but it would be so difficult of attainment that I do not mean to attempt it. Cases like those under your care will be, for most students, sufficient, though not absolute proof. You should place them on record. My friend Dr. Thomas Keith, the eminently successful ovariologist, tells me he has had a case in which he had reason to believe that the mother was similarly affected."

I think the question is of some interest, and worthy of the attention of the profession.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Kidderminster Infirmary, Dec. 15th, 1866.

JOHN ROSE, M. D.