CHAPTER — 2

HISTORICAL MILESTONES
The importance of hydatid disease and its occurrence in man and other animals has been known for many centuries. The disease was alluded to by Hippocrates around 400BC and is mentioned in the Talmud. Hippocrates in his ophorium speaks of the disease process as “liver filled with water and bursts........Belly is filled with water and a patient dies”. There are references of the disease in the works of Galen, Aretaeus and Rhazes.

The animal nature of the hydatid disease was first reported by Redi (1664), Hartmann (1683) and Tyson (1691). Tyson had suggested that human bladder-like cysts may be worms or developmental stages of them and named them Lumbricus hydropicus. John Hunter (1773) made an accurate description of hydatid disease noting that “large and small hydatids were uniformly round and filled with clear water in the transparent bag of two coats, the inner surface covered with small hydatid not so large as the heads of pins”.

The cause of the hydatid cyst was not known till 1782 when Geoze and latter Batsch (1786) recognized under microscope, the small taenias armed with a crown of hooklets in granulated cystic fluid. They proposed the name Echinococcus granulosus. Greek
(echinos = Hedge-Hog + kokkos = Berry) Latin (granulum = small grain).

Rudolphi (1801) completed the study of different characteristics of genus Echinococcus. Bremser in 1821 from Vienna reported the first case of hydatid disease in human patient who was operated by Kern. Von Siebold (1853) first introduced experimental methods and in a classical series of experiments was able to infect dogs from scolices obtained from the typical hydatid cysts. He found that adult mature taenias were produced in twenty seven days. In this way he conclusively proved the relationship between the cystic larval form and the adult form of taenia.

Virchow (1856) described the alveolar form of the disease in man. Shortly after Virchow's report Leuckart (1863) suggested the name Echinococcus multilocularis for the parasite producing alveolar hydatid disease, also known as "Malignant Hydatid".

Naunyn in 1863 first described the life-history of the parasite. It is to Leuchart (1867) that we owe the first complete and accurate account of the life-history and morphology of the parasite. Thomas in 1883 studied many of the biological, aetiological, pathological and clinical features of the disease.

Hydatid cystectomy with complete closure of the remaining cavity was first performed by Thornton (1883) and Bond (1891), known in France as Delbet's operation and in South America as Posados operation. In 1901, Deve of Rouen first published some observations on the subject and has published a great number of papers. Deve in 1904, injected some ova of Echinococcus into the trachea of a rabbit under rigid experimental conditions and nine
months latter discovered a typical hydatid cyst in the right lung. Deve in 1906 has calculated that one cubic centimeter of the hydatid sand contains about 400,000 scolices. Deve (1904). Blanchard (1925) and Clunies (1926) emphasized the primary importance of protecting the dogs against infestation as the chief means of breaking the life-cycle.

In 1907, the first complement fixation test for hydatid disease was devised by Ghedini. This was followed by the development of intradermal test by Casoni (1911). Deve suggested in 1903 and later confirmed in 1935 that a solution of 2 per cent formaldehyde has parasiticidal action if left in the cyst for upto 5 minutes. Saralegri (1922) introduced the method of radiography after pneumoperitoneum and claimed to be able to localize accurately cysts of the liver.

Indirect Haemagglutination test was first described by Garabedian in 1957. The Bentonite Flocculation test was first used for the study of the disease by Norman in 1959. Papadimitriou in 1970 introduced the operation of omentoplasty in hydatid cyst surgery.