282 XVIII. Diseases of Liver, G. Bladder, Pancreas & Peritoneum Liver

Chroni	c Venous Con	gestion (early)		
Liver:	Size:	Is increased		
	Capsule:	Tense		
	Cut surface:	Mottled red and yellow		
	Consistence:	Firm		

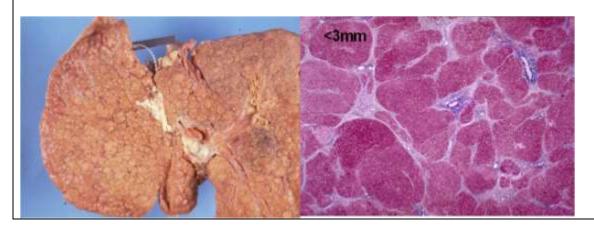
N.B.:

Chronic venous congestion may be due to:

- 1. Valvular disease of the heart.
- 2. Myocardial failure.
- 3. Obstruction to the pulmonary circulation.
- At first, the liver is enlarged, firm and has a stretched capsule.
- On section, the cut surface shows mottling of dark red areas (engorged sinusoids) and pale yellow areas (fatty degeneration).
- This gives the so-called "nutmeg liver"; i.e. the red trabeculae when surrounded by paler liver-tissue will simulate the picture seen on cutting a nut into two halves.



Chronic Venous Congestion (late) III-6.212						
Liver	• Is small	in size				
	Shrunk	en				
	Capsule:	• Thick				
		Wrinkled				
External surface:		• Finely-granular (or is somewhat smooth)				
	Cut surface:	Mottled:				
		Reddish or dark red areas				
Pale yellow fatty areas						
	Consistence:	• Firm				



N.B.:

- At first, there appear the *nutmeg-liver due to alternation of red streaks* (and patches) and yellow patches.
- Later on → central haemorrhagic necrosis of liver.
- When more advanced, a type of "congestive cirrhosis" (cardiac sclerosis or cirrhosis) may results
- The liver diminishes in size due to atrophy of the parenchyma and condensation of the connective tissue (in the central zones of the lobules).
- This type of cirrhosis is usually associated with failure of the right side of the heart for a long time.
- The liver will appear slightly shrunken, with a very fine granularity of the external surface.

