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PREGNANCY AND LABOR COMPLICATED BY TUMORS.*

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Of the new growths which complicate pregnancy and labor, I will refer chiefly to ovarian tumors and to fibroids of the uterus. These are the ones most commonly met with in this country. I will leave out of the question, or at least merely mention, tumors of the bony pelvis which are rarely found here, though common enough in the older countries, where on account of faulty breeding and bad hygienic conditions, bone diseases and malformations form a large factor in the consideration of obstruction to labor.

Fibroid tumors of the uterus may be situated in the body or neck of the organ. In the latter situation they are rare, but when they do occur they have a remarkable effect both upon the progress of gestation and of labor. Even though a fibroid in the neck of the uterus be small it exerts a baneful influence by retarding the normal changes in the cervix as labor advances, and by setting up an irritation which is apt to produce contractions of the uterus and eventuate in an abortion.

In one such case where the tumor was very small, abortion took place at about the third month in two or three successive pregnancies. Finally the patient, who seemed otherwise in perfect health, consented to my removing the tumor, after which on again becoming pregnant she carried the child past

* Read before the Simcoe Medical Association at Barrie.