

# THE CANADA LANCET.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF  
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SCIENCE,  
CRITICISM AND NEWS.

VOL. XVI. TORONTO, MAY., 1884. No. 8.

## Original Communications.

### CASE OF INTERSTITIAL FIBROID TUMORS OF THE UTERUS.

BY JAMES FERGUSON, M.D., CUMBERLAND, ONT.

On the 18th August, 1882, I was called to see Mrs. McD., aged 42, married 13 years; never had any family; never had been pregnant. Found her suffering severe pain and in great distress from a swelling or "hard lumps," as she called them, in her bowels. She described her pain as excruciating, preventing her from sleeping, taking away her strength and unfitting her for work. She looked the picture of anxiety and distress. I elicited the following as to her previous history. From a girl had always painful menstruation, habitually constive, and suffered much from wind in bowels, otherwise had good health; never any severe sickness, and was until a few days ago able to look after the house and dairy work of a large farm; had been a hard worker, and in harvest time would pitch grain and help generally at field-work. For two years previous had felt more or less dragging-down pains and sense of fulness in lower part of abdomen, but never experienced any great inconvenience apart from her usual dysmenorrhœa until 1st June last when she felt a hard lump just above the pelvis. This rapidly increased. In the two and one-half months which had elapsed from the time she first felt it until I saw her on 18th August, she had enlarged to the size usually attained in a case of utero-gestation at the fifth or sixth month. She had been examined by a physician who pronounced her case ovarian tumor, and advised her to go to Montreal and have it operated on. Before doing this, her husband sought my advice, and on examination I found her as before stated, careworn, and in much suffering, but not presenting the "facies ovariana" so characteristic of ova-

rian tumor. On passing my hand over the abdomen with slight pressure with the finger, I could easily make out at least three distinct, hard, unyielding, uneven knob-like masses, tender to touch, perfectly free from fluctuation and not moveable, but greatly distending the abdomen; no tympanitis. The abdomen though much distended was unevenly so, the bulk of the protuberance being above and to the left of the umbilicus per vaginam. I felt for the os uteri but could not find it digitally, and with my speculum succeeded no better; ordered her to remain quiet in bed, (up to this time she had been going about every day when able), and on no condition to leave it till I saw her again; gave her morphia and bromides, to relieve pain, and a good diuretic for the dysuria which was now troublesome, and left her. Returned on third day and succeeded in finding the os which was tilted back; when brought into the field of vision it looked healthy but small as a virgin's, hard, rigid and unyielding, and although I tried with patience and perseverance, I could not introduce the sound into the cavity of the uterus. Fearing that I might have a case of fibroid polypus to deal with, I did not use extra force with the sound, but as the rest and quiet with the soothing treatment, had had the desired effect in controlling pain, I left her on the same, adding, thereto a mixture of sulph. mag., bi-tart. potas, and tr. ferri to be taken every second or third morning as required. By the middle of September, under a tonic and supporting treatment, she had gained some strength. I repeated my attempt to introduce the sound, and with some trouble succeeded, when I found the uterus slightly anteverted, and elongated to the capacity of three and a-half inches, and the cavity of the womb pressed upon by hard resisting tissue on each side. I could detect no polypus or intra-uterine fibroid, and satisfied myself that the tumors were not *inside* the womb. That they were not ovarian I inferred from the hard, rigid, almost bone-like feeling, and the entire absence of any fluctuation in and the immobility of the mass—it could not be polypus as there was an almost total absence of bleeding after my prolonged use of the sound inside the womb; but the rapid growth which had taken place in two and one-half months, together with the great pain experienced, left me in doubt as to the benign or malignant character of the tumor