

together with the bladder, had been stripped down off the tumor surface; the Koerberle serre-noeud was placed so as to constrict the cervical structures, taking care to avoid the ureters, and after a severance of the ovarian and uterine arteries. The serre-noeud produced constriction of the stump and gangrene of its distal portion, notwithstanding the tanning effect produced by the application of perchloride of iron dissolved in glycerine. The patient did well until about the sixteenth or seventeenth day, when a leakage took place from this foul mass into the general cavity of the peritoneum, and a general septic peritonitis resulted, followed very shortly by the death of the patient. Even after recovery from such an operation, an immense funnel-shaped granulated opening was left, through which a subsequent protrusion of the intestine took place. This was certainly anything but ideal surgery. We then became bolder and found that a direct dissection down on to the vessels enabled us to control the hæmorrhage, and that the use of catgut sutures to the stump controlled any little oozing that might be caused owing to a lack of ligation of the azygos vaginæ artery. The operation was then still further improved by a readjustment of the cut peritoneum over the surface of the stump, so that the stump became, with the ligatures applied, practically extra-peritoneal. At first it was considered desirable to place a drainage tube in the cul-de-sac of Douglas, but in later years even this was found to be unnecessary. In my hands and those of my assistants, these operations have now become entirely satisfactory, and the mortality is almost nil. It is essential, of course, that the operator should see to it that all hæmorrhage is properly controlled before the abdominal cavity is finally closed. There is another point in favor of operation, namely, the fact that the tumors are not now allowed to grow to the gigantic proportions of those tumors formerly met with, and, furthermore, we do not have such extensive adhesions to deal with. As a consequence of the great success of the modern operations, I fear the pendulum has swung rather too far to the other extreme, and that now young women are practically unsexed, and are denied the opportunities of motherhood owing to the rather ruthless use of the knife on fibroid tumors as soon as they make their appearance. As fibroid tumors have vagarious ways, it is desirable that we should be fully aware of these peculiar changes, in order that we may deal with these cases more intelligently. Let us take up the question systematically.

**POSITION.**—Fibroid tumors have been named according to their position. The classification adopted has been sub-peritoneal,