

toms which had been relieved by treatment, after which she had become pregnant. As Gaillard Thomas pointed out in a paper written by him many years ago, in the majority of the cases of extra-uterine pregnancy reported, the patient is pregnant for the first time or for the first time after years of sterility, during which she has suffered from pelvic symptoms and from which she has partially or completely recovered, spontaneously or while under treatment. My own experience amply bears out these observations of Thomas and others.

The correct diagnosis of uterine fibroids, while usually easy, is sometimes most difficult, and the history of the subject is fraught with mistakes. I have more than once opened the abdomen for operation to remove a uterine fibroid to find that I had to deal with the much simpler condition of intraligamentous cyst. So tensely filled are these cysts sometimes, and in their process of growth so closely do they lie to the uterus, that by position and consistence they now and then closely simulate the common, solid tumour of the uterus. The diagnosis of uterine fibromyoma from intrapelvic cancer, usually ovarian, in its early stages is by no means always easy. One mistake of this kind occurring a good many years ago mortified me very much. The physical signs were such that my diagnosis was multiple fibroids. In a few weeks, failure of flesh and strength and the appearance of peritoneal fluid aroused suspicions of malignant disease, which were confirmed by exploratory operation.

All ovariectomists and abdominal surgeons of much experience have been disappointed and saddened by the appearance of intrapelvic and abdominal cancer within a year or two after a smooth recovery from the operation for removal of an ovarian tumour, apparently quite innocent in its characters. Lawson Tait used to remark something to the effect that every ovarian tumour had in it the elements of malignancy. His remark was doubtless the outcome of the experience I have alluded to. It would be more correct to say that if the whole of every ovarian tumour were submitted to careful microscopic examination by a competent pathologist, many which appear benign would show malignant characters. This fact is a strong argument, if any were needed at the present day, for the prompt removal of every ovarian tumour as soon as possible after its discovery. In malignant tumour of no other organ is radical cure by operation so hopeful.

Nothing in the experience of the gynæcologist is so saddening as that of cancer of the uterus. In the vast majority of the cases when first seen the only verdict to be rendered to the anxious patient is "too late" to do anything but make the last months of life as little miserable as possible. In by far the larger number the woman does not seek advice