

You will perceive that I retain the fibro-plastic as a distinct form. I do so, because, it is not quite certain whether the tumors included under that designation by Lebert, can all be assigned either to the myeloid, recurring-fibroid, fibro-cellular, or fibrous class. To refer now to this table: the growths which occupy its extreme ends certainly differ very widely from each other, so that we have no hesitation in calling a fatty tumor innocent, and an encephaloid malignant; still, the several groups pass insensibly into each other, and tumors having identity of structure, may be found occupying places both in the benign class and the locally malignant, or in the semi-malignant and the malignant.

The transition of the semi-malignant into the malignant is well illustrated by the cartilaginous tumor, which occasionally not only grows with great rapidity to an enormous size, but recurs when removed, and appears both in the lymphatics and in remote organs, as the lungs. Epithelioma, on the other hand, placed amongst the malignant, has little tendency to propagate itself, unless to contiguous parts; it occasionally does not recur when removed, and but rarely invades remote parts.

The fibro-plastic tumors placed at the lower end of the semi-malignant group, are plainly intermediate between that group and the locally malignant; for although they now and then recur after removal, it is generally only at the original site, and but seldom in remote parts.

Respecting the fibro-nucleated, enough is not yet known to justify their being placed elsewhere than in the locally malignant group; but, it is extremely probable, that, like the last two in the semi-malignant group, they will be found now and then to invade parts remote from that in which they first appear, and thus further corroborate the view I am now advocating.

Lastly, on this topic, while fibrous, osseous tumors and proliferous cysts, are generally quite benign or innocent, sometimes they exhibit some of the characters of malignancy, and thus come to occupy places in two distinct groups of the scale.

It must then be admitted, that, tumors like all natural objects, do not admit of a classification inherently and absolutely correct; for the members of each group, by very imperceptible transitions, blend with the groups placed next in the scale, whether above or below them, and the chief utility of classifying them, is the practical convenience, resulting from collecting the individual varieties into groups, possessing several characters in common.

I have made these few remarks on tumors, by way of preparing you for one of the peculiarities of an interesting variety of morbid growth,