

area of softening 5 cu. c.m. in diameter was found; it appeared acutely inflamed, being covered with flakes of lymph. As soon as the operation was completed the uterus was packed in sterilized waterproof material and conveyed direct to the bacteriological laboratory.

When the large fibroid was bisected they found a pyriform patch of red softening equal in size to one-third of the whole area of the tumor. The remainder of the fibroid was very hard, but the degenerated area had become so soft that the finger could be pushed into it with ease. From this infarcted area a pure culture of "*Staphylococcus pyogenes aureus*" was obtained, using the usual precautions.

A careful examination of the tissues of this degenerated area showed the vessels thrombosed, and in some situations the clot had undergone partial organization.

The interstitial fibroids exhibited the red change in streaks, but no micro-organisms were detected in them. However, Sutton expresses the opinion that the red change is not due to micro-organisms, but to mechanical interference with the circulation.

Mr. J. S. Fairbairn⁸ reports a case of removal of a red degenerating fibroid from the anterior wall of a pregnant uterus without disturbing the pregnancy.

The patient, married, aged 34, had one child 17 years previously, and none until now. Menstruation had always been regular, the last period being in February 2, 1908. She had no symptoms until six days before admission to hospital, April 23rd, 1908. Six days before admission she had an attack of pain in the abdomen and back and slight uterine hemorrhage; as the pain, though varying in intensity, continued and prevented her from working she came to hospital for advice and was admitted. The patient did not appear ill.

On examination a rounded tumor was felt in the abdomen, reaching to just above the umbilicus; it was movable, elastic, and very tender. The tumor was considered to be a fibroid, and in order to save the child, myomectomy was performed. The tumor weighed 1.5 kilos; on section it had a characteristic raw-meat appearance, and the stale odor of a necrobrotic fibroid.

In 19 cases of red degeneration investigated by Fairbairn 16 had pain, in eleven it was severe and the chief cause for the patient seeking advice.

In conclusion, he stated that in the majority of cases the diagnosis of "red degeneration" would prove correct, when pain, tenderness and softening of the tumor were present in a fibroid in a pregnant uterus.