

## FIBROUS TUMORS OF THE UTERUS.

BY THEOPHILUS MACK, M.D.

*(Read before the Medical Mutual Improvement Society, St. Catharines.)*

One of the most important organs in the economy of nature, and one also, a large segment of which, in the present state of surgery, is ominously tabooed to the most enterprising confrère, is unfortunately very frequently the seat of a parasitic production—the fibrous tumor—deriving its nourishment from the bosom of a parent, it is ultimately to destroy.

There is no neoplasm which, after having been so confounded with other morbid growths by the old surgeons who endowed it with sixteen different names, bewilders the young practitioner more than this. He is met with *in limine*, by "Fibroid" as if it meant something a shade different, "fibrous polypus," as if the fact of its being pediculated altered the whole distinctive character of the disease, or "fibroma," or "myoma," and it is only after a bother, (*Hibernice*) that he is awakened to the discovery that they are just all one and the same.

Fibrous tumours occur in the cellular tissues and are generally developed beneath investing or lining membranes. Of all anomalous growths which have their seat *in utero* they are the most frequent, varying in size from a hemp seed to an adult head. Unfortunately they have their seat more frequently in the fundus than in the cervix. Smooth or superficially lobed, they have always a spheroidal shape, and are extremely firm to the touch, unless cedematous from undergoing change. They are somewhat elastic and heavy, and sections of these productions bear a nearer resemblance to intervertebral cartilage than to any other natural growth in the body. Portions of their substance may be yellow, brown, or blue, with white lines or bundles of fibres in concentric circles or curves, the fasciculi of the bundles diverging and interlacing, sometimes the fibres are matted into a nearly uniform white substance, sometimes exactly resembling the fibrous tissue of the uterus, in fact a slight alteration may produce the fibrous tumour from the same blastema which gives origin to the uterine fibre. The blood vessels are venous, and are distributed chiefly in the areolar tissue, the vascularity is by no means uniform, some can easily be injected from the uterus, others remain quite pallid; no lymphatics are to be discovered.