

are the result of fetal displacement, of fetal cells, in that part of the body.

The fibromyoma is a connective tissue growth differentiated entirely from all forms of carcinomatous or epithelial growths and due to the development of tissue from a different fetal layer, the mesoblast, and we find in general that all these connective tissue growths are developed from this source. The uterine fibromyoma, then, may be accounted for by the theory of Cohnheim or by the theory of Hansemann, that certain adult cells, may, for reasons unknown, undergo development of a fetal character, that is a development of a very rapid tempo, and thus form a tumor not necessarily from fetal rests. Considerable proof has been adduced to show that this is possibly the case.

Uterine fibromyomata are in themselves benign growths, which means that they are encapsulated, and there is no tendency for them to invade other tissues by contact, that they do not form metastases, and that they have no tendency to return after removal. In other words, they present to us all the characteristics of benign tumors.

The pathological significance of these tumors may be considered conveniently as arranged into three groups of disturbances: (1) those due to pressure from the growths; (2) those due to visceral changes; and (3) those due to tumor degenerations and infections.

Pressure symptoms due to large tumors may be readily inferred, when we remember the great size which they sometimes attain. I have several times seen them grow almost as if molded into the pelvis and rising above its brim to almost fill the abdominal cavity. In one case the bladder was forced to a level above the pubes, and the pressure of the urethra against the pubic bone was so great that catheterization of the bladder, the only means by which it had been emptied for some time, became no longer possible, and the immediate indication for operation was retention of urine. In another, intestinal obstruction, due to the adhesion of the small intestine to the front of the tumor and consequent pressure against the