

tive tissue, and those which are malignant to the glandular portion of the breast. The growth and development of innocent neoplasms takes place within a capsule and does not involve the surrounding tissue; that of malignant formations the very opposite.

In considering the subject of why benign tumors of the breast are liable to become malignant by mataplasia, I should say that the lipomata and certain cysts are recognized as being uniformly benign, and that certain other growths, which are regarded as innocent, may, under certain circumstances, take on malignant action. What the occasion is which excites the intruder to change his coat and practically become a horse of another color is still a mystery.

Benign growths sometimes assume very great dimensions, but never affect any alteration in surrounding tissue except that of displacement of parts and atrophy through pressure. They are essentially local in their development.

Sometimes tumors, by their peculiar behaviour, answer all the requirements of a malignant growth, while structurally they retain the proper arrangement to entitle them to a position within the harmless fold. As to what tumors may become malignant by metaplasia I should regard those known as fibroma, a fibrous tumor, myxoma or mucous tumor, and adenoma, a glandular tumor, as those which are most likely to take on cancerous action. That form known as chondroma, a cartilaginous tumor, bring very rarely, if ever so.

All tumors are subject to degeneration, decay and death. They may inflame, suppurate and die, resulting in a mass of chronic inflammatory tissue, penetrated by sinuses from all points and absolutely refusing to heal. And it is an indisputable clinical fact that those growths which are earliest in reaching maturity are the first to show signs of decay, and it is further shown by experience that the tumors which attain maturity most rapidly, even though they be ever so benign at the outset, are more prone to undergo a cancerous degeneration. The slower the growth the more likely will it be to remain benign.