

In other cases again, which may be called primary papilloma of the ovary, the warty growths begin on the inside and penetrate through to the outer surface of the ovaries, and gradually spread until the ovaries and tubes are covered with them, and even the adjoining surfaces, of the broad ligament. This seemed to be the case in my patient, the warts being very numerous on the peritoneum, lining the recto-vaginal pouch, and on the back of the broad ligaments; but there was no evidence of infection on any other part of the peritoneum; after the ovaries and tubes had been tied off and the warts removed, the broad ligaments appeared quite natural apart from the oozing from the raw surfaces. An analysis of trustworthy lists of abdominal sections shows us that papillomatous cysts of the ovaries are rare before 25 years of age, the period of life when they are most frequent being between 25 and 50 years.

In some cases the warty growths take on malignant action, forming a sort of cauliflower epithelioma, while in other cases they become very hard, either fibrous or even cartilaginous; but in the specimen under notice they are extremely soft and friable.

As to the diagnosis, it would of course be almost impossible to diagnose the exact pathological condition before the abdomen was opened. The complexion of the patient and the presence of fluid must have led one to suspect malignant disease. Indeed, Bland Sutton says* surgeons are alarmed when they meet with this condition, as they mistake it for cancer or sarcoma. There is, however, he says, no cause for alarm, as the warts quickly disappear after the removal of the primary tumors.

With regard to the prognosis, it is much better than one might at first suppose, considering the resemblance between these warty masses and malignant disease or epithelioma. The prognosis is quite favorable, provided all the warty masses have been removed, in which case it is not usual for the disease to recur. Skin warts appear suddenly, and almost as suddenly disappear. Thus the life of a wart is often very transient. So with peritoneal warts; but as long as the seed supply continues, new warts spring up, last for a time, and die, to be succeeded in their turn by a new crop. When the tumors are removed, the supply of germ epithelium ceases, the warts die and the crop is not renewed.

In my case the immediate result seemed very satisfactory. The pain has gone, the bowels are regular, appetite and strength improved, and the dirty complexion has cleared up. As only a few months however, have elapsed since the removal of the growths, it is too soon yet to say what will be the ultimate result.

In view of the possibility of these growths taking on malignant action, their early removal cannot be too strongly recommended.

*Bland Sutton, Tumors, p. 399.