

most prominently, and the one most generally accepted, is that of local origin. The most recent theory, that of Cohnheim, demands an accumulation of dormant embryonal cells as such a cause. Cohnheim supports this view by experiments, in which he transplants foetal tissue into a mature animal with the result of excessive development of that particular tissue. Same practised after birth gives a negative result. Growth possesses for its active element cells and cells are propagated only by segmentation or pre-existing cells. Tumors have failed to be propagated by inoculation. Experiments have been tried time and again on individuals and animals without showing any result. Cohnheim thereupon returns to this theory that the morbid growth must spring from embryonal cells, and that as ovum, by segmentation, gives origin to different varieties of normal tissue, different in function and structure, so we may have produced abnormal varieties of tissue, with like divergent manifestation of function. It is further assumed that the elements from which a tumor arises are of an indifferent character, and that the result of the growth, what its character, etc., may be, is influenced in some way by the condition and circumstances at the time.

What part predisposition takes in favoring the development of simple neoplasms of the mammary gland is probably disputable. Family history, however, plays so important a role in the predisposition to the development of other affections that it seems as though it must be accepted as an important factor. The married state and the physiological transformation which takes place in the breast during lactation and pregnancy offer very slight, if any, contributing cause. Lactation, however, in predisposing to inflammatory and sometimes suppurative changes in the breast, may be followed by areas of circumscribed hardness, which may consist of cicatricial connective tissue holding in its meshes more or less glandular structure. Such a mass might, however, be classed with such as result from injury.

It seems almost probable that growths which are inclined to be innocent in character are, as a rule, confined to the connec-