

It may assume a nodular appearance or the whole cervix may be infiltrated. This soon ulcerates and slowly the part disintegrates till finally in some cases only a thin shell remains. The body of the uterus may be invaded early by direct extension or by metastasis, and soon the periuterine connective tissue is also involved. The vagina may not be involved till late or not at all (4) Vaginal cancer. This form may be an extension of the infiltrating form or it may be regarded separately as beginning in the posterior cul-de-sac and invading equally the cervix and adjacent portions of the vagina. Usually there is extensive ulceration and destruction of tissue. It has then, all the characteristics of a malignant ulcer, and from its greater accessibility to touch and sight is more easily recognized than any of the other forms.

Cancer of the body of the uterus may arise from any part of the uterine mucosae either as a circumscribed or as a diffuse growth. It is here almost always columnar celled or adenocarcinoma, arising as it does in the tubular glands of the mucous membrane lining the cavity. Very rarely a squamous celled cancer of the body of the uterus is met with, but few authentic cases have been reported. Cancer in this situation as a rule remains for a long time restricted to the body of the uterus. The muscular coat of the uterus is only slowly invaded. Eventually it may creep into one or both tubes. The broad ligaments are not invaded till late. The bladder and rectum may escape altogether.

Clinical Diagnosis. Perhaps we may say that in this disease more than in any other, that, to be of any benefit to the patient early diagnosis is imperative; and as the early symptoms of the disease are of such a vague and indefinite nature it is the duty of the family physician to be ever on the alert for the earliest signs of trouble here. To aid in the early diagnosis perhaps no better rule can be, at present, advanced than to regard every menstrual irregularity or hemorrhage occurring in patients of advanced years, as suspicious of carcinoma and demanding a thorough search into its cause.

The first symptom then to put us on our guard is hemorrhage. The patient has noticed some slight departure from the