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Original Memoirs

*UTERINE FIBROMYOMATA. THEIR PATHO- LOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE. DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.

Clinical Lecture

By JAMES N. WEST. M.D.

Professor of Diseases of Women, New York Post-Graduate
Medical School and Hospital

This subject, as can be readily understood, is a very broad one, and many volumes have been written upon it. But what I will try to give you this morning is a simple statement of the facts regarding these tumors as we apprehend them to-day, and the practical deductions therefrom which you may utilize in your work.

In regard to the causation of fibromyomata, we still have to hold to the theory of Cohnheim, modified, perhaps, to a certain extent by the theory of Hanseman. Cohnheim's theory assumes that all tumors are due to the development of fetal rests, a collection of cells of embryonic type, sometimes displaced from those portions of the body in which they should have been located and undergoing a development characteristic of fetal tissues, due perhaps to some form of irritation, either actual, chemical or metabolic. These cells may lie dormant for years, only to assume activity as life advances, or the required irritant appears to stimulate their development. We have almost