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## Original Communications.

### ON RED DEGENERATION OF UTERINE FIBROIDS: WITH REPORT OF CASE.

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AND

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Bland Sutton<sup>1</sup> writes that among the new things which the surgical treatment of uterine fibroids has brought to light is a knowledge of that change to which these tumors are liable, known as "red degeneration."

This increase in our knowledge of the pathology of fibroids is extremely useful in diagnosis, for red degeneration is especially liable to occur in fibroids lodged in a pregnant uterus, and it has the effect of rendering them painful.

Red degeneration, even in extreme degree, in fibroids of a non-pregnant uterus, may be quite devoid of pain, however—also a gravid uterus may contain a number of fibroids in its wall and yet only one fibroid may show red degeneration and become very painful, whilst the others are quite insensitive.

In the early stages of this change the fibroid exhibits the red color in streaks, but later it permeates the whole tumor.

The usual color of a uterine fibroid on section is pale yellow, or in the case of the pure myoma a reddish grey, especially in the smaller and apparently recent ones. This pure myoma is, however, firmer than the normal uterine muscle.

The fibroid proper is pale, almost white, in color and extremely dense, so that it cuts with difficulty, the cut surface having a watered silk appearance due to the lamellae passing in various directions reflecting the light differently.

When one of these tumors undergoes the red degeneration it