

give resonance in front as in ordinary ascites, because they were adherent and bound down to the back of the abdomen. I dried out the peritoneal cavity, and decided that the case was inoperable, but I took the precaution to examine the omentum and again found one of these burnt-leather-like fringes attached to the border of the liver.

The next case was one of an abdominal tumor as large as a foetal head, sent to me by Dr. Leprohon. Her appearance was exceedingly cachectic, and she was confined to her bed for several months by almost constant and exhausting hemorrhage. The possibility of the tumor being a carcinoma of the body of the uterus was quite strong, so, after removing the tumor, I examined the omentum and found that it was long and smooth and soft and easily drawn down. If I had found it short and crinkled, as in the other cases, I would have removed the cervix, but with such a healthy omentum I gave a very favourable prognosis and allowed the cervix to remain. This patient is doing very well two months after the operation, and is rapidly regaining her colour. These are the only cases which I can recall distinctly bearing upon this question, and I have brought it before you so that others of our members who are doing abdominal work may tell us if they have noticed this condition, and, if they have not, if they would kindly note every case in which they are unable to draw the omentum down under the abdominal incision with a view to tracing the subsequent history and reporting it if the patient dies of cancer. With regard to ascites or free fluid in the abdominal cavity and the presence of an ovarian tumor, I feel almost certain that it is conclusive evidence of malignancy. Two years ago I was present at an operation by my friend Segond, of Paris, who had diagnosed a nodular tumor in the pelvis. As soon as he had opened the abdomen a quantity of free straw coloured fluid escaped, and, as I was standing close to him, and the only visitor, I ventured to remark that it was probably a malignant papilloma. He asked me what made me think that, and I replied my experience of similar cases, and after removing and examining the mass he agreed in the diagnosis and prognosis.

I have examined ten of the most likely authors in my library without finding any mention of this point, except by