

II.

Fibro-Myomatous Uterus weighing over seven pounds, removed from a woman aged 22.*

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F.G., a Jewish virgin, aged 22, born on March 20th, 1884, as shown by her birth certificate, was seen on December 15th, 1906. She complained of menorrhagia, dysmenorrhœa, and enlargement of the abdomen.

Menstruation began at the age of 13, and had been regular every four weeks since. At first it lasted one day, but for the last three years it had lasted five days, during the first two of which there had been pain in the left side of the abdomen.

The patient had typhus at the age of 9, and when she was 13 she was treated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital for rheumatism.

She was admitted to University College Hospital, London, on December 18th, 1906, and looked healthy and not anæmic. The breasts were virginal. The hymen was intact and its opening very small, rendering examination difficult.

The abdomen was distended, measuring 3 in. below the umbilicus, 31 in. in girth. The distance from the umbilicus to the anterior superior iliac spine was $6\frac{1}{4}$ in. on each side. The distension was caused by a tumour which reached up to 3 in. above the umbilicus. The tumour had almost the shape and consistence of the pregnant uterus, but differed in that the lower segment was specially prominent, that the left cornu of the uterus felt rather harder than the rest of the organ, and that neither ballottement nor uterine souffle could be obtained. The tumour felt cystic to palpation, and gave a well-marked thrill on percussion. It was dull on percussion. On vaginal examination the cervix was virginal. The uterus appeared to be small; the tumour could not be reached. The relation of the uterus to the tumour could not be made out without an anæsthetic, even by rectal examination. It was not thought advisable to give an anæsthetic as the case was clearly one which required operation. An ovarian tumour was diagnosed.

On the 20th of December, 1906, I operated and found that the tumour, in its shape, and colour and consistence, closely resembled a

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Large fibro-myoma of uterus undergoing mucous degeneration,
from a patient aged 22.

pregnant uterus at the seventh month. The only points in which it differed from the pregnant organ were in the fulness of the lower segment (which in the pregnant uterus is usually flat), in the absence of signs of a foetus, and in the presence of a white patch where the tumour had pressed against the promontory, which I have often observed in the fibroid uterus but never in the pregnant organ. In spite of the close simulation of the pregnant uterus I decided that the patient could not be pregnant, as the breasts, though the areolæ were pigmented, were in other respects typically virginal. I considered that the tumour was a degenerated fibro-myoma, and on making an incision into it this diagnosis was confirmed.

The uterus was then removed by total abdominal hysterectomy, the pelvic peritoneum being closed by a purse-string suture.

The abdominal wound, sutured with buried silk (for the fascia) and through stitches of silk-worm gut, healed by first intention, and the patient left the hospital quite well on the 22nd of January.

On bisecting the uterus, which weighed 7 lb. 7 oz., it was found to be invaded by an intra-mural fibroid which originated in the right wall and had undergone mucous degeneration. This degeneration was especially marked at the upper part of the tumour, where it formed a gelatinous layer half an inch in thickness (see plate).

Microscopic examination confirmed the naked-eye diagnosis.

The points of interest in the case are the large size of the tumour, the youth of the patient, and the fact that at the operation the tumour closely resembled in appearance a pregnant uterus. Nine years ago I brought before the Obstetrical Society all the cases I had been able to find recorded (forty in all) of fibro-myoma occurring in women under twenty-five years of age, together with two cases of my own, one of which weighed 4 lb. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. Dr. Russell Andrews has published a case of a fibro-myomatous uterus weighing 4 lb. 5 oz. occurring (like my own) in a Jewess, aged 20. Most of the tumours recorded, however, were small, and it is rare to find so large a tumour as this in so young a subject.