On a tumour of the ovary in the common pheasant / by Henry H. Slater.

ON A TUMOUR OF THE OVARY IN THE COMMON PHEASANT. By HENRY H. SLATER, B.A., F.Z.S. (PLATE VIII.)

A HEN pheasant, found dead in a very emaciated condition, showed, on being opened, a large ovarian tumour.

This tumour, of which a drawing is given *in situ* (Plate VIII., fig. 1), measured when fresh 2·3 inches in greatest length, 1·1 in breadth, and the same in depth. It was very irregular in form, and was roughly divided into three principal lobes, which were united at their bases and were subdivided into many smaller lobes: the whole presented the general sulcated appearance of a human brain, on a small scale.

Wishing to preserve it as perfect as possible as a museum specimen, I have not weighed it.

As might be expected, there was considerable displacement amongst the internal organs from the introduction of such a large mass of diseased tissue amongst them: the kidneys, so close to the seat of the disease, were much inflamed, and were soft and flabby, especially at their upper end; the liver and pancreas were full of small white spots, which proved to be small watery cysts; and the small intestine was violently constricted at intervals.

The ovary seemed to be almost entirely absorbed; nothing resembling its usual granular appearance was visible; and the tumour rested consequently directly upon the kidneys, a fold of peritoneum alone intervening. Though no ovary was visible, the left oviduct was convoluted as much as it would be in the earlier part of the breeding season, but this of course was not healthy excitement, but due to the inflammation of the organs. The right oviduct presented its usual aborted appearance.

On making a transverse section (fig. 2) of the tumour, the interior was seen to be quite solid, and in no degree cystic or alveolar; nor was there, as might have been thought likely, any tendency to a concentric growth, but, on the contrary, bundles of fibres were seen faintly to radiate from the point of attachment of the tumour.

The minute anatomy was difficult to determine, owing to the necessity of employing a high power. There were visible (figs. 3 and 4) fat cells (by far the largest), granule cells, and nucleated cells, which I regard as resembling those found in tubercle; the last named being very numerous and irregular in shape and size. Interspersed were minute fibres (fig. 4), but these were rare; and lastly, diverging from the base of attachment of the tumour, were bundles of fibres very irregular in shape. To these is due the radiated appearance of the section (fig. 2). They are unstriated muscular fibres, and seem to be the only remains of the original ovary.

This diseased ovary is only the most conspicuous part of a general tubercular affection which pervaded the whole of the viscera: the liver, pancreas, omentum, and intestines being all distinctly more or less involved.

I was under the impression that the tumour was cancerous, from the great resemblance under the microscope to medullary cancer of the human ovary; and my thanks are due to Professor Turner, who was kind enough to suggest that the tumour was probably tubercular, the correctness of which opinion was at once verified by means of dilute acetic acid.

The specimen, as represented in fig. 1, will shortly be deposited in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. .

Note on Tubercular Disease Affecting the Common Pheasant. By A. B. STIRLING, Assistant Conservator, Anatomical Museum.

As a sequel to Mr Slater's case, it may be of interest to note some observations made a few years ago.

In the year 1874 Professor Douglas Maclagan presented to the Anatomical Museum of the University the bodies of two male pheasants, in their full plumage, and a year old. He had received them for examination from the Earl of Wemyss, in whose preserves at Gosford they had been bred. During the autumn of that year many of the pheasants in those preserves had pined away and died, and it was deemed advisable to have an anatomical examination in order to determine the cause of death. The pheasants were much emaciated, but the plumage had retained its usual brilliancy. On opening the abdomen, white bodies, varying in size from a shot to a

bean, were seen in the walls of the stomach and intestine, in the mesenteric glands, kidneys, liver, and spleen. These bodies had to the naked eye the appearance of tubercular masses, and the evidence of their tubercular nature was confirmed on microscopic examination. The bronchial and tracheal glands were also enlarged, and contained a whitish material of a similar nature. It was evident, therefore, that the pheasants had died from a wide-spread tubercular change in the most important of the viscera.

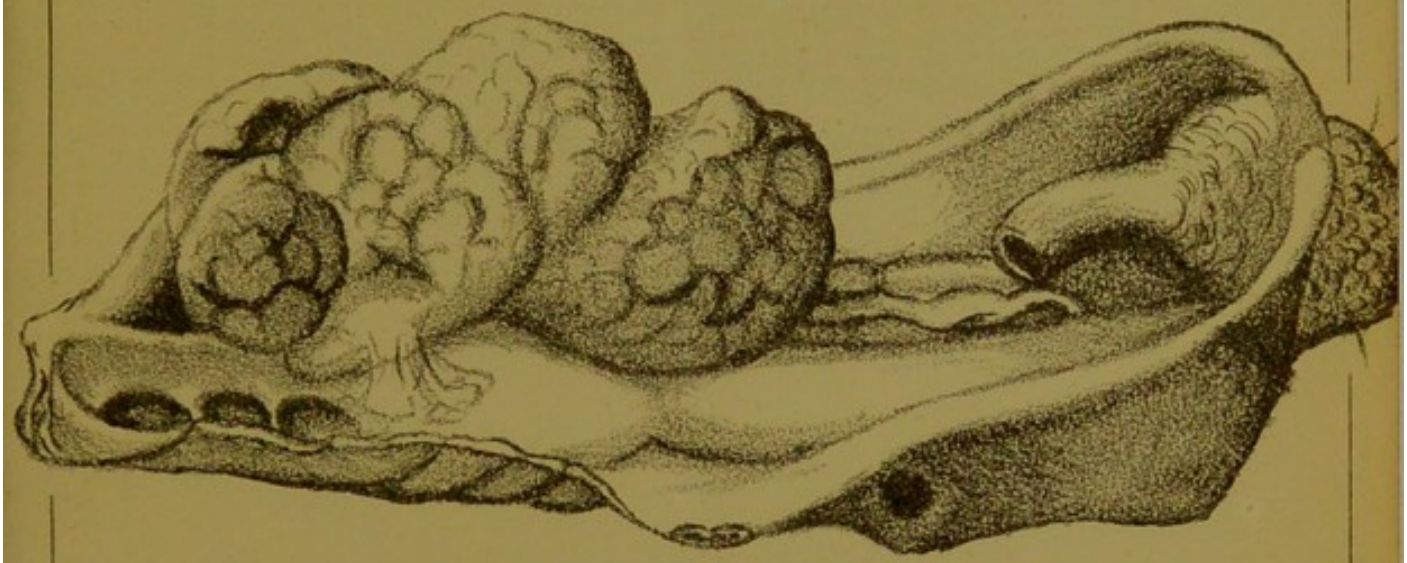

Fig. 1.
Nat. size.

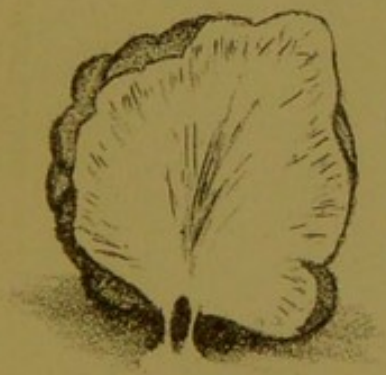

Fig. 2.
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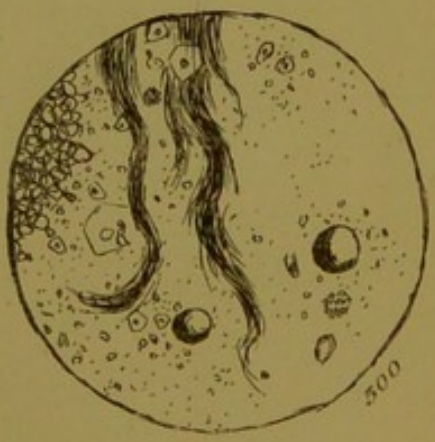

Fig. 3.

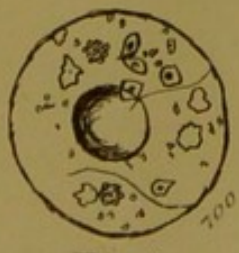

Fig. 4.