

ABOUT CANCERS.

THEY ARE PRONOUNCED INCURABLE EXCEPT BY CUTTING.

Two Great Classes, the Benign and the Malignant - Cancer Cells, Fibers and Fluids - Not Contagious, But Often Hereditary.

Did analysis Journal Interview. "The cancer of the tongue very fatal?" inquired the reporter of a medical friend.

"Yes," he answered, "seeing the article on Gen. Grant's condition in Sunday's paper, I looked up the statistics in the new edition of 'Cancer Surgery.' Of seventy-two cases of cancer of the tongue analyzed by Dr. Agnew, forty were males and thirty-two females. Most of the cases occur between 50 and 60, and most die within a year."

"Do many cases of cancer recover?" "I do not know of the kind of cancer, its degree of malignancy, and the time of operation. I have resorted to a host of tongue cancers are of the epithelial form, and generally are primary. There is no connection in the classification of cancers. All tumors and morbid or abnormal growths are regarded as forms of structural degeneration, or vitiated nutrition. All such growths are referred to one or the other of two great classes. There are the benign, or harmless, and the malignant, that is, fibrous, and bony tumors are examples of the benign tumors. Malignant tumors we mean such as are prone to unlimited growth in size. They are distinguished by their result, and difficult or impossible of arrest or cure. Pathologically, all malignant growths are essentially cancerous—their subdivisions are merely clinical or surgical. Cancer is an Anglo-Saxon word which means to eat away or corrode cancer and cancer are other forms of malignant tumors which themselves to one kind of tissue—they are simple accumulations of bone, fat, or muscle, and do not include the adjacent tissues, nerves and blood vessels. Cancerous growths are a way rich in connective tissue fibers and enormous production of cells, variously shaped, but of the epithelial type. They involve and destroy all the tissues in the way of their growth, they rapidly tend to molecular disintegration, often becoming bloody, gangrenous, and putrid. They are more likely than not to return after removal. I suppose from what has been written about Gen. Grant's case it comes under Wagner's term definition of a cancer—an atypical epithelial neoplasm. If they have a good deal of hard fibrous tissue in them little of the so-called 'cancer juice,' and but few cells, they are called 'schirrhous,' or hard cancers; if orange or jelly-like, 'colloid'; if of a net-work of fibers, and with a great variety of cell forms, they are called brain-like cancers; 'encephaloid,' or medullary."

"May a cancer be known by its microscopic appearance?" "Yes, and no. The microscope confirms rather than determines the diagnosis. Pathologists and micrologists no longer believe in a distinctive 'cancer cell.' The cells, fibers, and fluids of cancer are various and abnormal. The cells are of various shapes and sizes, averaging the 1,000th of an inch in diameter. The cells are like the cells of glandular structures generally, but they are longer; they are lawless in their growth, and do not normally belong to the part where they grow. They are not foreign plantations, but rather distortions of the natural elements of the body."

"What makes them so painful?" "They are not always so; the physician sometimes recognizes uterine or other cancer before the patient is aware of its presence by pain or discomfort. The pain comes when the cancer extends to a tissue well endowed with nerves. They bleed, or not, according as they are of the vascular or non-vascular type."

"What causes them? Are they contagious or hereditary?" "They are not contagious; they are hereditary. There exists in some families a 'cancerous cachexia,' or tendency, but it has not much significance. Cancers follow after injuries, as of the hip or knee, from falling, from pressure, as tobacco-pipe cancer of the lip, and often in the uterus at the change of life, or in infancy. No part of the body is exempt. There is no cure except removal; all treatment is palliative only, and all so-called 'cancer doctors' are, without exception, quacks and impostors. But the legend, 'Cancer cured without the use of the knife,' at least attracts many. The charlatans sometimes remove benign growths and swear they are cancerous, they also 'cure' cancers which do not exist. Dr. Bliss, of Washington, D. C., brought forth 'condurango' as a constitutional remedy and cure, much to his own chagrin, we may hope, and certainly to the mortification of those of the profession who tried it. Our consul at Pernambuco has sent samples of a new Brazilian plant, 'alvoco,' to the medical department at Washington for trial, but it will go the way of Elix 'condurango,' very probably. Cancers caused 200 deaths last year in India—reported as such in the health board statistics—probably many more. They cause over 1 per cent. of the total mortality. Forty-five were reported cancer of the stomach, twelve of the liver, and one of the tongue. Such statistics amount to but little without the evidence of post-mortem examination, however."

"How long do patients survive after removal of the cancerous tongue?" "Dr. Clarke is quoted by Agnew as to thirty-nine cases, of which the average duration of life was eighty-six weeks; twenty-five were operated on and life was prolonged on an average of forty-five weeks more—enough to justify the operation."

For Are in Exploration. (Chicago Tribune.) A present object of curiosity in San Francisco is the steam launch building for the use of Lieut. Storey in exploring the rivers of Alaska. The boat will be about fifty feet long by twelve feet beam, and of uniform draft of twelve inches. The hull will be of seasoned fir and the craft throughout built somewhat after the style of one intended for Arctic exploration. It is probable she will be taken to Alaska in sections, not being intended for a sea voyage. She will be a stern-wheeler and will have accommodations for ten men. Speculators are awaiting the result of the expedition with interest, an impression prevailing that discoveries may be made of rich mining fields and coal beds.

A Horse-shoe of Horn. (Chicago Herald.) A horse-shoe made entirely of the horn of sheep has been tried in Lyons, France, and is found particularly adapted to horses employed in plowing, and known not to have a single defect on the pavement.

In Montevideo and Buenos Ayres all the horse cars come from the United States.

Walking and Swimming. (Herald of Health.)

Every healthy person, man or woman, should be a good walker, able at any time to walk six to twelve miles a day at least, and double that when gradually brought up to it. The points to be attended are, to see that the walk be brisk and vigorous, not of a loitering or dangling kind; that there be some object in the walk besides its being a routine constitutional—i. e., not like the staid promenade of the orthodox ladies school, and, if possible, in pleasant company; that there be no tight clothing, whether for the feet or the body, which will constrain or impede the natural movements of the limbs and trunk; and that the walk be taken as far as possible in the fresh country air.

In regard to this latter particular, although the towns are increasing so rapidly as to make it almost a journey to get out of them on foot, still we have so many suburban tramways and railway lines that in a few minutes we can find ourselves in the country, where the air is fresh and pure. Whenever an opportunity presents itself for a little climbing in the course of a walk, it should be taken advantage of. We gain variety of muscular action, as well as increase the exertion, and we get into the realms of purer air and fresher breeze at the same time. What may be considered as the weak point in walking as a mode of exercise is the comparatively small play which it gives to the muscles of the shoulders and chest, while it is still less for those of the arm. This should be compensated for by the use of light dumb-bells or Indian clubs, or some other form of exercise which brings in play the arms and shoulders.

One of the forms of exercise which requires the action of the muscles of the arms and legs, is swimming. This, however, for many reasons, cannot be used as a means of exercise except by a few, and at certain seasons of the year, but where possible it should be practiced. The great pity is that boys and girls do not learn it as a rule, while at school. Every large town should be well provided with swimming baths, and if it could be made compulsory for scholars at a certain age, say 12, to learn to swim, it would be a great advantage to all, and also be the means of saving many lives.

An Association's Singular Origin. (Chicago Herald.)

The origin of the famous association of the Miseriordia, in Florence, is singular. About five centuries ago, when Florentines were busy with the woolen trade, many porters used to gather on the Piazza di San Giovanni. It seems that cursing and swearing were as familiar to those old porters as to the modern ones.

One day a poor porter, Lucas Borsi, trying to reform his swearing companions, proposed that they should pay a fine for every oath, the money to be put into a box, and that with this money a litter should be bought to carry poor people fallen in the streets to their homes or to the hospital. The porters liked the idea, and in time their association spread all over the city. The little company grew in numbers and in power, many wealthy men leaving large legacies to it. Now it owns a large amount of real estate and no man of mark passing through Florence declines to register his name among the brothers, if possible, such is the honor attached to its membership.

A Remarkable Relief. (Venezuela Cor. Inter Ocean.)

This little narrow room which the government occupies is the same in which the declaration of Venezuelan independence was signed, and upon its walls hangs a picture commemorating the event. Strangely enough beside this painting of the decree of liberty hangs a heavy gilt frame containing the banner which Pizarro carried in the conquest of Peru—the rarest and most interesting relic in all South America. It is about four feet square of heavy pink silk, faded almost to white, embroidered with gold by the fair hands of Queen Isabella herself, the design being the combined escutcheons of Aragon and Castile, in an excellent state of preservation. It is with the keenest irony of contrast that this age begrimed banner should hang in the room where the first voice was raised against the tyranny it represented, here beside the document, scarcely legible now to the eye but to the mind speaking with mighty force the long story of Spanish oppression, and illustrating the first feeble and unsuccessful protest.

Electricity as a Railway Motor. (Chicago Times.)

The following claims of superiority over steam traction are made for electricity as a railway motor: Absence of smoke and cinders; it obviates all danger from explosions; it does away with the necessity for heavy locomotives and for tenders, and allows of lighter bridges and tracks; the rails are not worn out so fast, as a perfect rotary motion is communicated to the driving wheels, and there is no pounding or jumping of the motor; no obstruction can throw the train from the track, as the current is neutralized by the obstruction itself, and the train comes to a stop before the obstruction is reached. A broken rail or an open drawbridge would break the current, so that the train could not reach the point of danger; by a proper arrangement of connections it would be impossible for any train to proceed to a section already occupied by another train, and collisions would be impossible.

Our Salt Industry. (Industrial America.)

There are in Michigan 117 firms engaged in the manufacture of salt with the aid of machinery, and 4,500 covers for making solar salt. The manufacturing capacity of the wells is 3,875,000 barrels. The amount actually manufactured during the year ending Dec. 1 was 3,232,175 barrels. In Marine City a solid bed of pure salt was lately struck at a distance of 2,000 feet.

Breathing Through the Nose. (Medical Journal.)

The reason that it is not healthy to breathe through the mouth is that the air is better warmed when taken into the lungs through the nose, owing to the heat of the blood in that organ, and because the capillary projections in its cavity catch all the deleterious matter and throw it out.

An Innovation. (London Tribune.)

With respect to the senseless habit of buying new clothes in order to mourn for a deceased relative, an Australian states that both in Australia and New Zealand the announcement of deaths in the press are often followed by the words: "By the wish of the deceased, his relatives will not wear mourning."

Iron Bridges for Brazil. (Chicago Herald.)

Iron bridges are sent from this country to Brazil now at the rate of about four a month. They are shipped in sections, and when they reach Brazil, are put up in place of wooden bridges on the Brazilian highways.

ANCHORS AND CHAINS.

A Heavy Load in Themselves and Why Second-Hand Ones Are Preferred. (New York Mail and Express.)

Several large piles of rusty iron anchor chains filling the sidewalk in front of a shipsmithing shop caused a reporter to step within the building and ask how many pounds of iron a vessel usually carries as a part of its outfit.

"Many vessels," said the proprietor, whose shop is one of the oldest in the city, "carry as many as 48,000 pounds each. To a landsman this naturally seems a pretty big load in itself, but it forms an essential part of a ship's make-up. Of this 36,000 pounds are usually in chains and 12,000 pounds in anchors. The Henry B. Hyde, a large ship built in Maine, carries two anchors, one of which weighs 7,000 pounds and the other 6,000 pounds. Every vessel, as well as steamship, is obliged to carry five anchors, a spare one and two stream anchors besides the one in regular use. Our largest anchors weigh 8,000 pounds each, while we have them as light as twenty-five pounds. Some of the largest chains are composed of links the iron of which is two and a half inches in diameter."

"Yes, we only deal in second-hand materials, but we have fitted up some handsome vessels all the same. The George W. Curtis, a new clipper ship of 1,800 tons, has our anchors, as also has the Albert G. Jones, 2,500 tons, and the Henry B. Hyde. We make a specialty of second-hand material of this kind because we find that there is a big demand for it. One reason is that freights are low and ship owners are obliged to economize like other people, and another and more important one is that a captain prefers second-hand anchors and chains because they have been fully tested. It won't do on shipboard to have defective rigging of this kind, and there is no real way of testing anchors except by use. Consequently we find it a rule that thoroughly tested second-hand anchors and chains find a ready sale."

New Yorkers would open their eyes in surprise were they to know to what extent the business has grown. Why, we alone have on hand at this time 115 tons of 1 1/2 inch chains and between 60 and 70 tons in anchors, besides tons of other second-hand iron material used on shipboard. The stuff you see in here and out on the walk, large as it seems, does not comprise but a small part of the stock, for over in Brooklyn we have a lot 100 feet square filled with it.

"Do insurance men have anything to do with a ship's outfit? I should say they did. Why, no anchor can be put aboard a ship nowadays unless it suits the requirements of the inspector of insurance. They are very particular about this, and a ship or steamer must have just so many shots of chain and just so many anchors, of weight and size to compare with the size of the vessel, or things are no go. A number of vessels have lately taken to the use of a patent anchor which the insurance companies allow. This is one-third the weight of the ordinary anchor and has being on a swivel. The reason an anchor's chain is always in sections of ninety feet is to enable the captain to know just how much of it he has cast out."

New Use of Celluloid. (New York Sun.)

As a down-town printer, who had just completed the printing of a lot of illustrated circulars, was washing the type and cuts with benzine, a young man noticed that the cuts were white instead of the ordinary copper color of electrotypes. "New kind of metal for electrotypes?" asked the young man.

"No. These are celluloid stereotypes. It is a new use for celluloid. The plates are easily made. The engraving on the form of type to be stereotyped is first used to make a fine copper matrix, just as if a common metal stereotype was to be made. Then this matrix is placed in a form, and over it is laid a sheet of celluloid. The two are put in a hydraulic press, the temperature is raised to 300 degrees Fahrenheit, the celluloid is pressed into the matrix at a pressure of 1,000 pounds to the square inch, and then the thing is done. When taken out and cooled the celluloid plate is an exact counterpart of the original form, and when cemented to a suitable wood backing it is good for four times as many impressions as a copper stereotype. Besides that, it is not easily damaged."

"Another use made of celluloid is in facing wood type. This is done by laying a thin sheet of celluloid over the face of a big block of wood, and the two are shoved into the hot press. When they come out the celluloid has been forced into the pores of the wood an eighth of an inch, and has made a surface that is simply beautiful. The block is then cut up into wood type by the ordinary wood-type machine, or it may be sold to wood engravers, who find it equal to box wood."

How to Catch Sharks. (Foreign Letter.)

The sharks which abound on the east coast of Madagascar, and make such extensive depredations upon the cattle in course of shipment, are occasionally captured by the people. The young men sometimes go on a shark-hunting expedition. Having discovered a shark, they dive under it, and, before it has time to turn on its back, use the long sharp knife they carry. It is affirmed among the Malays that some of their people can go into the water on discovering a shark, and with nothing in hand but a piece of stick about a foot in length, armed with an iron point at each end, can accomplish its destruction. Watching till one of the monsters, with its two or three rows of teeth, is just about to attack him, he uses his wide-extended stick across his opportunity, and inserts his hand into the mouth of the creature and transfixes its jaws by implanting the stick cross-wise in its mouth. The more the shark tries by snapping to disengage the weapon, the more deeply it enters, and in painful fury it seeks the bottom. But it fails to obtain relief, and at last dies. Its body is washed ashore and the inhabitants divide the carcass for food.

Convenient Post-Card. (Chicago Times.)

An enterprising country publisher in England, who has remarked that immense numbers of people suffer from an almost unconquerable repugnance to letter-writing, has prepared a special post-card for the use of lazy correspondents. The back of the card is divided lengthwise into ten unequal spaces, and the energies of the reluctant scribe are spurred by the following suggestive headings, one of which is conspicuously printed to the left of each of the divisions: 1. Date. 2. Excuse for not having written sooner. 3. State of health—(a) of self, (b) of family. 4. The writer's recent experiences. 5. News. 6. Family gossip. 7. Questions to be answered in your next. 8. Love to. 9. Love from. 10. Signature.

The freehold farms in New Zealand are estimated to be worth \$170,000,000.

To Physicians.

We do not find fault, reproach or condemn the practice of any regular physician—this is not our mission—but we do claim that if he were to add PERUNA to his prescriptions, as directed in our book on the "Iris of Life," (and furnished gratuitously by all druggists), he would cure all his patients.

Mr. Henry C. Reynolds, Ironton, Lawrence County, Ohio, writes: "My wife has been sorely distressed for many years. Her disease or diseases and the symptoms of them have been so varied that an attempt to describe them would be more than I feel able to undertake. I have paid over a thousand (\$1,000) dollars for doctors and medicines for her, without any satisfactory results. We read so much about your PERUNA that I was forced to try it. She has now taken five bottles; they have done her more good than all the doctors and medicine that she has ever made use of. PERUNA is certainly a God-send to humanity."

Mrs. O. L. Gregory, Las Vegas, San Miguel County, New Mexico, writes: "I think PERUNA and MANALIN saved my life."

Mrs. Cora Engel, First House on Lazzelle street, near Rich, Columbus, Ohio, says: "It affords me much pleasure to state to you the benefit I have received from your PERUNA. I had been troubled with kidney complaint and dizziness in my head for eighteen years. I tried different kinds of patent medicines, and consulted a number of physicians, but received no benefit whatever. About three weeks ago I commenced taking PERUNA. I began to get better before I had taken half a bottle. The dizziness has disappeared, and the other affection has so much improved that I am positive, after I will have taken another bottle, I will be entirely well. I feel like a different person already. A number of my friends have used it, and they think it is a wonderful remedy. My husband says it is one of the best medicines for a cough that he ever took."

A. W. Blackburn, Wooster, O., writes: "Several weeks ago a man came to me, all broken down, terribly nervous, stomach without any power to digest food. Had tried four doctors; none did him any good. Asked me to do something for him. I recommended MANALIN. He told me to-day that he has been taking it regularly, and is now almost well. Said he would sound the praises of MANALIN far and near."

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