

demonstrated that fomites reeking with the vomit, urine and feces of yellow fever patients have nothing whatever to do with transmitting the contagion of that disease.

One need not go so far as to say that, in the transmission of scarlet fever, measles, varicella and mumps, fomites have no active part. It is largely a question of evidence, and the fomites theory is on trial. The discovery of the true vehicle of a contagious disease dispels doubt, because it shows whether contagion is communicated directly from the sick or convalescent to the well, or indirectly through fomites.

J. J. C.

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#### THE GALVANO-CAUTERY IN THE TREATMENT OF MALIGNANT GROWTHS

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REFERRING to the effects of the galvano-cautery in preventing the return of cell growth in uterine carcinoma, John Byrne, of Brooklyn, who had operated with the electric cautery in 367 cases of carcinoma uteri, stated, "that there is hardly any doubt that the developmental activity of the cancer cells or germs, in certain stages, or under certain conditions, may be arrested or permanently destroyed by a degree of heat much below that which is detrimental to, if not destructive of, normal tissue." He believed that the thermal agent exerts a modifying influence much deeper than the surface actually cauterized. He said, further, "I have never known