

known American surgeons, who is besides recognized as a special authority on cancer, and whose investigations on the subject have added so much to our knowledge that was valuable and suggestive, we should be inclined to doubt the possibility of there being any truth in the sombre prophecy.

Dr. Park is not, however, alone in his conviction that cancer is rapidly on the increase. The best English and French authorities on the subject are agreed that the affection is much more prevalent among their respective countrymen and women than it was twenty years ago. Billroth pointed out in the early '90s how rapid was the increase of cancer cases in recent decades in the Vienna General Hospital. Nothnagel, in 1897, confirmed this report for later years, and in the volume on "Intestinal Diseases," in his system of "Specielle Pathologie und Therapie," reports a conversation with Billroth just before the great surgeon's death, in which they were agreed that the increase in the frequency of cancer was noticeable, not only among hospital patients and the poorer classes, but also in the private practice and among the wealthy patients. Nothnagel finds that the experience of the last five years has only confirmed this impression.

It is evident then how important a subject the etiology of cancer is becoming. State aid has been asked for its investigation and it is clear that the object is an eminently proper one. A great question of public health, one that is every year becoming more urgent and serious, is involved. If, as Professor Park's investigations and his copious gleanings from medical literature all over the world seem to indicate, the cause of cancer is a parasite, its discovery and the investigation of its biological history would probably confer upon mankind one of the greatest blessings that medical science could bestow. The subject is a most interesting one to medical men, and while no effort should be spared to make the personal observations of every cancer case as complete as possible so that it may be of scientific medical value, every member of the profession should encourage by every means in his power the present earnest effort to make the serious investigation of the etiology of cancer one of the great problems that our Empire State shall solve for her own and the world's benefit.—
Medical News.

TUBERCULOSIS IN THE INSANE.

DR. H. H. TOMLINSON, superintendent of the St. Peter's Asylum, Minnesota, published in the *New York Medical Journal*, March 11th, an interesting paper on the observations and findings as to phthisis in the insane. The period of his study covers from January, 1895, to 1898, during which time fifty patients succumbed to the disease. None of these had their condition thus diagnosed on admittance, and tuberculosis appears to have originated during