

disputed, but that in many cases there exist a constitutional predisposition due to heredity would appear to be equally true. It is more than a mere coincidence that cancer will be found to afflict many members of a family and show itself in several consecutive generations.

If it can be shown that cancer can be arrested by early surgical removal, and that no subsequent recurrence will follow, it would go far to strengthen the position of the localists. The doctrine of the local origin of cancer is of the greatest importance in a surgical sense. Logically, we must admit that if the constitutional manifestations are due to a spread of the disease through the lymphatics and blood stream, there must have been a time when the disease was purely local, and when the lymphatic vessels and blood were not affected. If, then, the disease is *ab initio* local, and that it spreads through those channels to distant parts until the entire system is implicated, the necessity for early surgical interference becomes imperative. Then, again, the constitutionalist declares that the tumor is merely an expression of a previously morbid condition of the whole system, a condition somewhat analogous to a state met with in gouty persons, in which a sudden outburst of inflammation of a joint will occur without any apparent local injury. "Something is absorbed," says Sir William Jenner, "not necessarily pus, and there is in every part a disposition, under irritation, to burst forth into cancer. A gland or other part of the body is bruised or irritated, but such bruise or irritation does not develop extravasation of blood, thickening of tissue, or formation of abscess, but will be followed by the development of cancer." The return of cancer after removal at or near the part first affected or in distant organs is advanced as evidence of the constitutionality of the disease. On this head Sir James Paget says: "I would hold that the constitutional element in the origin of cancer is strongly marked in the constancy and in the method of its recurrence after complete extirpation." That recurrence is the rule after extirpation of cancerous growths experience leads us to admit, still, however, cases do occur occasionally in which no recurrence is observed. These are looked upon as exceptional, either that the life has not been sufficiently prolonged to be a