

RADIUM RELIEVES BUT DOESN'T CURE

Can Only be Regarded as a
Palliative in Treatment of
Cancer — Dr. Armstrong's
Views.

(Montreal Gazette.)
Radium as a curative agent in the treatment of cancer of the mouth and tongue and in various parts of the human body, was discussed by Dr. George E. Armstrong, C. M. G., in an address upon "Some Cancer Problems," delivered at yesterday's luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club, held at the Windsor Hotel. "I have never seen radium cure cancer in any of these regions, and I have never seen a case published of that kind. Radium will not cure cancer up to date; it is not cured by, except skin cancers, which are not so malignant. What we all think is that radium is a palliative. The general tenor of Dr. Armstrong's address was that this malady has not yet been traced to a germ, but that all that is known of it is that it arises from irritation; that it is essentially a disease that should be treated the moment it is suspected, and that many lives could be prolonged if the advice of physicians were sought in the earliest stages of the disease.

In introducing his subject, Dr. Armstrong defined cancer as "a disease that tends to destroy life; that is very difficult to deal with, and a very old disease." He showed that it was known to the Egyptians, to Indians and to Persians 1000 years B. C., and had been treated both medicinally and surgically. On this continent there had arisen out of an informal gathering of surgeons a society known as the American Society for the Control of Cancer, and at the present moment there was a continent-wide campaign to ventilate the subject. The Death Rate.

The reason for this campaign, Dr. Armstrong explained, was the appalling death rate from cancer and the apparent increase in that death rate, though there was always some doubt on this point, as there might be more careful diagnosis now; but the present figures showed an increase of cancer at the rate of two and a half per cent. in the United States. During the war the United States had lost 80,000 soldiers, killed, and during the same period there were 180,000 persons who died of cancer. Discussing the question as to how to arrest this progress of the disease, Dr. Armstrong said it must be recognized, and the public must be made aware of the fact, that cancer is really not yet known; it cannot be attributed to any germ, impurity of water, food or air. In the case of typhoid, diphtheria, tetanus and smallpox, municipalities were to blame for such diseases, and should be held responsible; but in the matter of cancer it was individual and personal. The only cause that could be defined was that of irritation. Such irritation arises from various causes. It meant that every tumor, every sore, every jagged cancer was not a blood disease, but was a local disease. If people would approach physicians at once when they first suspected something wrong, there was no reason why cancer should not almost be wiped out.

Dr. Armstrong pointed out that the malady was wont to attack men over forty years, and that beyond that age men should look to themselves when gastric troubles arose that were not easily removed. He disclosed the reason why people were so inclined to let this malady go for some time before seeking medical advice. On reason was fear of being informed as to what was the matter, while ignorance was another reason. As to the remedy for the disease, Dr. Armstrong intimated that removal by surgery was the only known remedy to



This was greatly simplified when people consulted their physician at an early stage of the disease. Many cases not at first malignant became so before the doctor was consulted. Figures of a noted Berlin surgeon showed that of patients who had been operated on for cancer of the breast, sixteen per cent. were alive and well three years after operation. The speaker's own figures were that of 250 cases fifty per cent. were alive and well three years after operation, and an English surgeon was able to show 48 per cent.

Value of Radium.
Referring to the recent statement made by Dr. J. R. Deaver, of Philadelphia, against radium as a curative agent, one which had found wide publicity and caused much disappointment to patients, Dr. Armstrong said: "One must speak very carefully on this subject of radium. It is better not to camouflage it, and I would speak only as a general surgeon, not with regard to nose and throat, but for cancer of the mouth, tongue, lip, breast, stomach, intestines, rectum and colon; I have never seen radium cure cancer in any of these regions. Radium will not cure cancer up to date. Radium is a palliative. I mean that it relieves pain; it makes the patient more comfortable; it may relieve vomiting distress, and I think it retards the growth to a certain extent; how far, no one is prepared to say, for we have not got evidence as yet. Don't take away all hope from people. I don't like to say radium is of no use; but we should say that up to date radium will not cure cancer, but will give a great deal of relief and prolong life, and for that reason should be used under certain conditions."

Dr. Armstrong believed that by arousing public interest on this matter, it might be possible to save between 25,000 and 30,000 lives yearly from this disease. A member of the Stock Exchange was not in good temper when he rang the bell to dictate his letters. One communication had annoyed him, and this is how he replied to it:

"Dear Sir—I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday's date. My typist, being a lady, cannot take down what I would wish to say to you. I, being a gentleman, must not say it. You, being neither, will probably realize what I mean."

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DOCTORING THE WORLD'S ILLS.
Doctors are always at work endeavoring to find out what is the matter with the world in these disturbed times. One of the latest and most instructive reports is that of the executive committee of the Federation of British Industries, which was recently forwarded to Premier Lloyd George by the president of the Federation, Sir Peter Rylands. The summary of the finding of the committee is instructive as a presentation of the causes and a sketching of the periods of difficulty resulting from the troubles which have arisen.

The fundamental causes of the present trade position are the direct results of the war, consisting of—
(a) The general impoverishment of the world owing to the enormous unproductive expenditure.
(b) The destruction of the world's standards of value due to the inflation of currencies, and manifesting itself through a condition of the exchanges so chaotic as to make international trade, instead of a matter of reasonable foresight and calculation, a game of chance, in which the rules and stakes are perpetually altering without the will or knowledge of the players;
(c) An alteration of the world's channels of trade, which may be permanent or temporary, due
(1) To the partial or complete disappearance of many pre-war markets and sources of supply;
(2) To the development of industries in the countries which previously exported raw material and imported manufactured goods.

These causes mean that we must face two periods of difficulty:—
(1) A period during which the exchanges and such subsidiary causes as the high and constantly varied tariffs which have been a feature of post-war economic policy in many countries, will form a serious hindrance to international trade. During this period trade will also have to adjust itself to the new channels insofar as they seem likely to be permanent.
(2) A longer period which will last until by a process of hard work and restricted consumption the world has replaced the stock of commodities and instruments of production lost during the war.

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Are you scratching and cutting into the protective enamel of your teeth, tearing down with harsh and gritty tooth paste their only defence against decay? Every time you scratch your teeth, you remove part of the surface.

Your Teeth Need "WASHING"—Not Scouring

Simple Tests That Show If You Are Using The Right Tooth Paste

1. Anyone, even a little child, knows when his teeth or gums hurt. This sensitiveness often comes from brushing with a harsh, gritty, soapless tooth paste. Suggestion—Try a gentle "washing" dental cream for three weeks. (A trial size of Ribbon Dental Cream will be sent you free on request.) If no improvement is noted, you need to consult a dentist at once.
2. See if gold fillings look dull. If a scratchy, soapless tooth paste dulled the gold, imagine what it does to enamel and delicate mouth tissues! Suggestion—Brightness can be restored in many cases if a "washing," non-scouring dental cream is tried for three weeks. (A trial size of Colgate's Ribbon Dental Cream will be sent you free on request.) If no improvement is noted, you need to consult a dentist at once.

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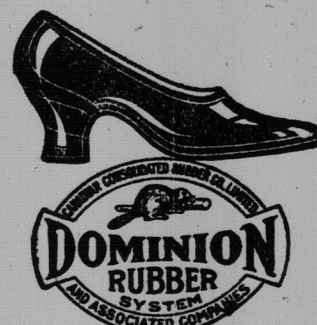
Gritty soapless pastes may show "quick results." If you scour away your skin Nature could replace that. Silverware scoured with grit or harsh chemicals can also be restored if damaged. But even Nature cannot replace tooth enamel if once it is worn away. Decide on the safe and sane method of cleaning teeth. Better it is to use a safe dental cream now than suffer years of regret later on.



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