

after the menopause. The spreading of useful knowledge on these points will, no doubt, direct the attention of women to the need for recognition of the early symptoms and the wisdom of resorting to early treatment. Dr. Cullen declares that 30 per cent. of cancer cases can be cured in the early stages.

DUST AND DISEASE.

Quite a discussion was raised by Dr. H. W. Hill, of London, when he read his paper in the public health section of the Canadian Medical Association to the effect that dirt was not a serious factor in the causation of disease. This view met with strong opposition. With the opposition we are in accord.

It is true that children may thrive under apparently very unfavorable conditions. The housing may be poor, and in a dirty condition. But this sort of a negative does not prove a case. The same sort of argument could be advanced to support the use of drink and tobacco, by referring to some heavy smoker or drinker who lived to old age.

A particle of dust that may easily be wafted by the wind to a great distance is a chariot large enough to transport many germs. Thousands of tubercle bacilli could be carried on a little bit of sawdust which a consumptive had contaminated with his sputum; and one bacilli getting into a person's lung under favorable conditions in 24 hours can have a progeny of 17,000,000.

But dirt, apart from being a carrier of infection, has an injurious effect all its own. This is mechanical at first, and then excites morbid changes in the tissues. Steel filings, the hair in a fur factory, particles of glass where such is ground, granite dust in cutting monuments, etc., though perfectly sterile, if inhaled into the lungs, will do much harm. They can set up inflammation, cause irritation, lead to excess of secretion to get rid of the particles, and lay down a good soil for live germs to work on. *Dust is a living danger.*

THE PLACE OF RADIUM.

Dr. H. H. Janeway, attending surgeon to the General Memorial Hospital, New York, contributed to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* an article on the value of radium in the treatment of cancer. Dr. Janeway, while careful in his statements, nevertheless admits that this form of treatment is of great value in suitable cases.