

ADDRESS IN GYNÆCOLOGY

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TO visit London is always a pleasure, to come as an invited guest to the Canadian Medical Association in the Forest City an honour which I deeply appreciate.

This evening I want to briefly outline the various methods adopted to educate the public as to the early recognition of cancer, and to impress upon them the fact that in the early stages of the disease many patients can be permanently cured.

For several years the medical profession has been fully cognizant of the fact that the laity has a false idea about cancer, namely the widespread feeling that it is a blood disease and that consequently it cannot be cured. It is our duty to impress upon them the fact that in the beginning it is a strictly local process, a process that is amenable to surgical treatment.

Several earnest campaigns have been waged during the last few years. The various committees have devoted their attention mainly to pointing out to the family physicians what might be accomplished by early operation and urging the physician to send his patient at the earliest possible moment to the surgeon. Notwithstanding the splendid efforts in this direction little has been accomplished, not because the physicians were necessarily negligent, but because the patients did not present themselves until the disease was far advanced. It was finally realized that if satisfactory results were to be accomplished the message must be carried directly to the people. It was pointed out that fifteen or twenty years ago it was exceedingly difficult to prevail upon persons with appendicitis to be operated upon; now with the knowledge they have, after appendicitis has been diagnosed, operation is at once sought, and the only question asked by the patient or his relatives is—to what hospital shall I go? When the laity are made fully aware of the cancer situation they will on the first sign of the disease present themselves for examination and will gladly avail themselves of surgical aid.

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