

for intra-abdominal and intra-pelvic cancer. When peritoneal cancer has been diagnosed, surely exploratory operation is uncalled for. Exploratory operation should become less and less frequent as we perfect our methods of diagnosis.

Operations for other forms of cancer are of questionable utility. Take, for instance, resection of cancerous intestine, gastro-enterostomy, for pyloric cancer, removal of the uterus for uterine cancer. Gastro-enterostomy and resection of intestine are poor make-shifts. For carcinoma uteri, vaginal hysterectomy is the only operation that should be contemplated, but at best it prolongs life but for a short time.

I am afraid that many rash statements in regard to the after results of this operation have gone forth to the profession from many Associations. I have frequently performed vaginal hysterectomy for cancer of the cervix uteri. On two occasions I have removed the uterus for malignant adenoma confined to the body, without any implication of more than the mucus and a small portion of the muscular coat, without any appearance of implication of the peritoneum, and, in each case, the disease has returned within less than eighteen months after the original operation.

I must thank you for the patient hearing you have given me, and I trust that, in the meeting, though the President's address is not open for discussion, the questions I have mentioned will be given careful consideration.

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## PREVENTIVE MEDICINE IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.\*

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*(Continued from last issue.)*

A large experience has also shown that in institutions devoted solely to the care of consumptives the general welfare of the patients is more easily fostered, the risks of fresh infection more certainly diminished and the chances for recovery more surely-enhanced than in general hospitals in which all classes of cases are received.

From the beginning of this work, the officials of the Health Department of New York City have encountered, in the lack of proper facilities for the care of consumptives, a great obstacle to practical success, and I am convinced that the grave responsibilities which rest upon sanitary authorities generally in this matter cannot be properly discharged without the establishment, under

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\* Address in Public Medicine delivered before the British Medical Association in Montreal, August 31st to September 3rd.