

After two months' experiment improvement has not been satisfactory, and I have again prescribed thyroid extract. Probably these cases differ in the character of the factors causing epithelioma as compared with those concerned in ordinary cases of cancer.

When cases of epithelioma are neglected, a something that is the rule and not the exception, and the process has extended deep into the corium or subcutaneous tissue, as well as along the general surface, and especially if the infiltration has reached the neighborhood of large blood vessels, in particular those of the face or neck, the rays may often be regarded as the only agent which gives hope for successful treatment, and, as shown by the reports of careful observers, curative results by their assistance have been obtained in some of these inoperable cases.

These results are an additional proof that the rays are a very valuable addition to our armamentarium against cancer.

When the epithelioma is situated upon an extremity and about large blood vessels it still remains to be shown whether it were better to use the rays or whether it would be advisable to amputate the limb at the proper place. If there is any invasion of the glands no reliance should be, in my opinion, placed on the rays. At the present time I have in an old lady a case of papillomatous epithelioma occupying the entire back of the hand from wrist to fingers; a case that is slowly but surely improving under treatment by the rays. The slow improvement is probably partly to be attributed to her very irregular attendance for treatment. Amputation in such a case would not be justifiable before treatment by the rays were tried.

When, as in some cases of the pearly form of epithelioma, there is a formation of new lesions in the scar area, curettage and subsequent treatment by pyrogallie acid or arsenious acid or acid nitrate of mercury is much to be preferred to treatment by X-rays, as from the latter the exposures necessary to destroy the lesions are very liable to produce a serious burn on account of the greater vulnerability of the scar tissue in these cases, at least that is my experience.

An important point to be considered in choosing between the X-rays and other methods of treatment in all cases of epithelioma is the danger of producing by the rays either a serious burn or a permanent alopecia. It is admitted that an epithelioma always occupies a much larger area than appears to be the case to the naked eye, and in using the rays this area must be exposed to their influence, and on account of the repeated exposures necessary for removal of the disease, if seated on a hairy part of the body, an alopecia is, in my experience, the invariable result, whereas after the use of selective caustics the greater part of this cancerous area is not denuded of hair. Whether also the long treatment required by the rays has or has not an injuring action on internal