

prits escape altogether. In countries where this form of punishment has been discontinued, a much larger number of accused persons are found guilty and receive some punishment. This is much better than to escape scot free.

RADIUM TREATMENT.

From time to time the press despatches carry around the country the reports that radium treatment, so far as cancer is concerned, is a complete failure. But these statements only contain half truths.

They do not inform us as to the location of the cancer, nor its stage of advancement before treatment was commenced. It would be a very easy matter to select cases that the radical operation by the scalpel would assuredly fail. Does this declare that the scalpel has no place in the surgery of the disease?

Then, again, some operators resort to too heroic applications of radium. This may destroy much good tissue, or it may cause the necrosis of so much cancerous tissue that the patient succumbs to toxic conditions. This is the fault of the method of application and not of the agent itself. Surgeons who have not got a supply of radium, but have scalpels, are often loudest in their condemnation of radium.

ALCOHOL AS A STIMULANT.

On clinical grounds many years ago the late Sir W. T. Gairdner threw much doubt on the value of alcohol as a stimulant. The clearly reasoned out work of Dr. F. E. Anstie also did much to tell us what alcohol could or could not do. Observations made on the army during marches made it quite clear that alcohol lowered the power to resist the onset of fatigue. There have been many reliable tests that it also lowers the power of the body to resist cold.

Quite recently Prof. Emil Krapelin, Munich University, has made very many careful observations and conducted many experiments with the view of once more clearing up the ground. He has made hundreds of tests with individuals and groups. These tests were made on persons who had taken no alcohol on the same persons after various doses. The loss of strength was quite noticeable after a glass of Bordeaux wine. The loss would be about 7 or 8 per cent.

The same results were obtained when the experiments were made with persons. By closely watching the effects of alcohol on mental