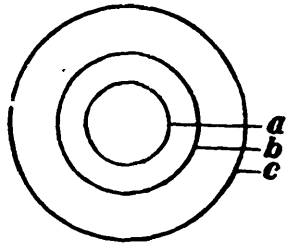
cancer, and for a time there may be dimunition in the size of the growth, but in time the epithelia or the organisms causing their growth accommodate themselves to the existing conditions and active growth commences again. As proof of this statement, cancers have been known to disappear after an attack of typhoid fever, and I have seen epitheliomata disappear without surgical aid.

The use of electricity except as a caustic should not be relied upon. When the tumor is situated on the roof of the mouth or close to the inner or outer canthus of the eye and is small, the cautery can be employed to advantage.

Scraping and curetting is often employed, but, used alone, I am firmly convinced that it is an injurious method, as one cannot remove all the pathological tissue in this way. As the operator cannot remove all of the pathological epithelia at a single operation and in the intervals of treatment the part is in a condition of reaction after injury, there is more blood brought to the part, and consequently the cancer



epithelia will grow with greater rapidity than if the part had not been operated upon; furthermore, as the lymph channels are also enlarged there is danger of early extension to distant parts. Curetting and then cauterizing the base with a suitable caustic can be used to advantage in some cases of epitheliomata, especially the superficial pearly form, in which case the scraping should be merely preparatory to the application of a proper caustic.

No caustic should be used that does not rapidly and effectually destroy either directly or indirectly the epitheliomatous tissue. The caustic agents which have been particularly employed in this disease are nitrate of silver, nitric, sulphuric and hyrochloric acids, acid nitrate of mercury, carbolic and acetic acids, chloride of zinc, caustic potash and arsenious acid. Some of these, as nitrate of silver, carbolic acid, etc., act very slowly and to a slight degree, whilst others, as caustic potash, act quickly and cause rapid necrosis. The objections to some and the advantages of others of these caustics is illustrated by the use of the accompanying diagram.