## THE WESTERN CANADA MEDICAL JOURNAL

my attention to the alder as being the tree I wanted. The commonest type of alder in England is the *Alnus glutinosa*. I obtained some of the leaves of this tree and made a decoction therefrom and worked out a tentative dose; but it was eight years after my start in this research before I had the first opportunity of trying this form of treatment.

My first case was one of old carcinoma in the breast which had broken down and left a large tee-shaped wound running across from the axilla towards the middle line. The junction of the limbs of the tee occupied the place where the nipple had been. I gave this patient some of the decoction and asked her to come back in two days' time. Her report then was "less pain and better nights." Under an increased dose for a further two days she got the first good night's sleep she had had for twelve months without the use of morphia. This encouraged me to proceed, and the result after having treated close upon two hundred cases of cancer occurring in almost all parts of the body, has been of a most encouraging character, so much so indeed that I have no hesitation in recommending this drug to my professional brethren where soever they may be as another weapon against this dreadful disease.

It seems to me that it would be of interest to mention some of the more particular occurrence that have obtained in my cases during the administration of the drug.

Those cases in which there has been operation for removal of the breast, and recurrence afterwards in the neighbourhood of the cicatrix are manifestly of considerable importance, inasmuch as there can be no possible question as to the nature of the disease present. Here, there would be the usual recurrent nodules with thickening and discolouration of the cicatrix, pain and cachexia. Under the alnus treatment, by which of course I mean the administration of the decoction already referred to, the pain and cachexia disappeared gradually, the patient's strength improved, and after some period of time had elapsed the cicatrix gradually lost its discolouration and thickening, and reverted to the silvery line of health. The nodules when discoloured, at first were prone to take on a deeper colouration which gradually lessened again, and, whether coloured or uncoloured, diminished in size

51