

An impure condition of body owing to non-use and non-oxidation of the food which has been taken. The amount may have been moderate, or even small. The cells of the body in this condition are loaded with effete material. It obtains in old age; in persons who lead indolent, easy, and indoor lives; and locally in organs the active functions of which have ceased. (4) A fourth factor is some local irritant or stimulant, such as friction from the stem of a pipe or irritation from some micro-organism of which no one is actually specific, or ovarian stimulation in the case of the breast. Of these the first must always be present, and probably in some form the fourth, and also in all either the second or the third, but not both of them. These factors being in existence, the disease may be started in perhaps one epithelial cell or in a mass of cells which grow individually larger and change the nature of their protoplasm, for a cancer cell will not stain with congo red, whilst an epithelial cell takes the stain deeply. The cell becomes a different being with often more than one nucleus. It is itself the parasite, living and growing at the expense of the tissues around it, and contributing nothing to the common good.

This idea was originated in the mind of the writer by his noticing that cancer of the uterus was seldom or never met with amongst the numerous Jewesses attending the gynecological out-patient department of the Leeds General Infirmary (only one case in ten years). The experience of the London Hospital, where there is a special Hebrew department, is the same (only one case in five years, against 178 amongst Gentile women). Dr. Abraham Cohen, physician for Jewish out-patients at the Metropolitan Hospital, writes that his experience is the same; and Dr. A. C. Tunstall, medical officer until recently to the Jewish Hospital for Incurables, writes that he has never seen a case of cancer amongst the Jews. If this comparative immunity is correct the only explanations possible are: (1) difference of race, and (2) difference in diet. The latter is far more probable than the former, although there may be something in race.

Another curious fact, which may be compared with this is that in the vomit of cancer of the stomach there is no hydrochloric acid, whereas in all other forms of vomit the acid is present. On this point Mr. D'Arcy Power writes: "Your point about the diminution of salt is a good one, but it must not be held to prove too much, for it only shows that a rapid multiplication of cells is taking place in the body. Does not the same diminution take place in pneumonia?" There is a curious observation by Moraczewski in Virchow's *Archiv** that the blood of persons suffering

* *Virchow's Archiv*, Vol. cxxxix., p. 385.