

proves fatal within three to five years, and that the only cases which recover permanently are those in which an early radical operation is performed.

#### A LOCAL DISEASE.

One feature of this dreadful disease has been definitely settled, and that is that it begins as a local affection, and it is in this stage that it is amenable to successful treatment by an early radical operation, and it is safe to state that not more than 25 per cent. of all the patients who apply for surgical aid are within reach of successful operative intervention. Left to itself, the intrinsic tendency of the disease is to destroy life. Its malignant course is not influenced by any kind of internal medication or local treatment short of complete destruction or removal of every vestige of carcinoma tissue. The prevention and successful treatment of any disease depend on the neutralization or removal of its cause. Material progress in the treatment of carcinoma can only be hoped for after we have succeeded in demonstrating its essential cause.

#### NON-PARASITIC.

The most intense interest in the study of carcinoma was awakened with the origin and rapid growth of the modern science of bacteriology. As soon as it became known that all inflammatory processes are caused by specific pathogenic microorganisms it was very natural that, by reasoning from analogy, the conclusion was reached that carcinoma must be a parasitic disease. There are so many similarities between chronic infective diseases, notably tuberculosis and carcinoma, that we can readily appreciate the motives that led to the investigations in all parts of the civilized world concerning the *microbic origin* of carcinoma. Various methods of tissue staining, cultivation and inoculation experiments have all been utilized by thousands of earnest investigators in their strenuous effort to discover and prove the essential *microbic cause* of carcinoma. A number of intracellular and extracellular bodies have been found and described as the specific parasitic cause of carcinoma, but for none of them has the claim been substantiated by crucial impartial laboratory and clinical tests. Searching criticisms from different reliable sources have disarmed all such claims.

From an etiologic standpoint, very little has been added to our knowledge of the nature of carcinoma since the epoch-making researches of Vischow, Cohnheim, Thiersch and