

of which is accompanied by the formation of a poison either from organisms or from cell metabolism, but differing in that the cause of the epithelial proliferation is different in different cases.

An epithelioma can commence as a scaly, eczematous-like lesion, or as a vesicle, papule, wart, tubercle or nodule. It is highly important to make an early and correct diagnosis of the form, location, area of existence, and direction of extension of the growth, as the earlier the disease is properly treated the greater are the chances of cure.

A study of the manner of growth of a cancer shows that it spreads not by centric growth, giving a sharp margin easily recognized, as in the case of the simple tumors, lipoma, adenoma, etc., but by growth at the periphery and by invasion of the surrounding tissue by way of the lymph channels to an extent not recognizable by touch or the unaided eye. So insinuatingly do the epithelia sometimes travel in the lymph spaces that even a microscopical examination of the tissue beyond the area of excision, in a mammary cancer, for instance, may fail to detect them, yet the subsequent history of the case, a so-called recurrence of the disease, proves they were present. A knowledge of the form, location, direction and rapidity of the growth of the cancer is of value in forming an opinion as to the probable extent of the invasion and should be carefully noted in every case in order that the disease be thoroughly removed, and yet no unnecessary mutilation of normal tissue be produced. As will be shown directly, however, it is necessary that the removal be rapid and complete in the deeper seated growths particularly, as inefficient treatment is not only not beneficial, but very harmful, as it hastens the growth of the tumor and favors secondary lymphatic gland infection, when the disease can easily be regarded as incurable.

Cancer is at first a purely local disease and not a manifestation of a constitutional condition, therefore a complete removal of the primary growth before it has invaded other parts of the body is equivalent to a cure of the disease. In some parts of the body as the scrotum, front of the neck, etc., parts from which it is possible to remove a large amount of tissue without injury to the patient, the knife is the agent to be employed. With these rare exceptions the treatment by suitable caustics should always be employed in preference to excision on account of the greater certainty of success and the slighter deformity remaining after the removal of the disease. The use of toxins from erysipelas organisms either pure or mixed with others, has given very unsatisfactory results, and should not be relied upon in any case. The use of any substance making a profound impression upon the general nutritive condition of the patient has an inhibitory action upon the growth of a