

results in an epithelioma; there occurs merely a superficial growth of epithelium, layer upon layer, never tending to become malignant, never forming metastases.

Where chronic inflammation exists there ensues frequently an extensive downward growth of the epithelial structures, but always more or less regular in its distribution. There are, however, occasions where scar tissue can develop into an atypical growth of epithelium, and this, it must be admitted, is difficult to explain. Here again, however, chronic irritation alone will fail to give an explanation, else the condition should be far more frequent than actually occurs.

It would seem that irritation alone, then, cannot explain the formation of cancerous tumours, that to the mere activity of epithelial cells alone cannot be accredited the formation of cancers, and it would seem that our only resource is to examine for some deeper cause, to search for the original stimulus which brings to the cells the power to proliferate. It has been shown how characteristic are new growths as the result of parasitic invasion and how scarce are evidences of similar growths in diseases that are proven to be non-parasitic. So that placing together all our facts we feel that, for the present at least, there still remains a hope that in the near future something more may be discovered to account for the similarity of malignant processes to those in the infective diseases.