

ject of appendicitis, and whereas a decade ago it was often necessary for the family physician, after making the diagnosis, to spend hours in urging the necessity for immediate operation, at the present day, after he has given his verdict, the first question asked by the family is, to what hospital the patient should be sent.

The splendid crusade against tuberculosis is another example of the immense amount that has been accomplished by the education of the rank and file of the community.

Two or three well-illustrated articles, explaining in simple words just what cancer is, how it spreads, and what may be accomplished by early operative interference, will be all that is necessary to put women on their guard. Many of them have an innate fear that they will some time develop cancer of the uterus, and are fully aware of the distressing train of symptoms in the advanced stages of this dread disease. What we want to do is to impress upon them the fact that any abnormal bleeding, no matter how slight, should be immediately investigated by their physician to ascertain if cancer be present. If no malignancy be found, they are relieved of their unnecessary anxiety. If cancer be present, it can be combated in the early stages. The fact that early cancer may be successfully eradicated by operation, and that it is in the beginning a strictly local process instead of a "general blood disease," as it is so often referred to by the laity, should be most forcibly impressed upon the community.

The sooner this subject is launched the sooner will our percentage of permanent cures increase. I feel sure that after women in general are thoroughly familiar with the necessity of an examination just as soon as they present any symptoms, the surgeon will be able to save, at a conservative estimate, from 20 to 25 per cent of these cases.

Among the most important surgical papers that emanate from the larger clinics are those which deal with the after results in various operative procedures, and it is well worth the

while of every surgeon to "take stock" at regular intervals. Having a vivid recollection of the numerous immediate deaths I had encountered following the Wertheim operation, I hesitated long before I could make up my mind to attempt to locate the patients that had left the hospital. But when, finally, the work was commenced, and it was found that some patients had enjoyed comparative comfort for one, two or three, or even six years, I felt that the operation had been worth while. And when seven letters came back saying that the patients were well at periods varying from six to thirteen years, and expressing the most profound thanks for what had been done for them, I could not help feeling that the radical abdominal operation is the one destined to yield the best results.

This is an operation, however, that cannot be lightly undertaken, as it requires the very best efforts of the surgeon. My friend, Reuben Peterson, has expressed my sentiments so well that in conclusion I will quote what he has recently said on the subject.

"My belief in this operation has only become stronger. However, the experience afforded by eleven additional cases has not made me any more confident that the next patient I operate upon will either survive the primary operation or will ultimately be cured. On the contrary, in contrast with other abdominal operations, the more I perform this operation the more I respect and, possibly, dread it. Yet I adhere to it for the simple reason that, in my hands, all other operations for cancer of the uterus have been disappointing in their uniformly bad ultimate result, while with the radical abdominal technique I have been able to save a fairly good percentage of my patients, and that, after all is said, is what the surgeon is after. If he be not content to set at naught his surgical reputation as far as primary results are concerned for the sake of ultimately curing more patients, he would best not meddle with this operation, which, in apparently favorable cases, is only too apt to turn out to be grave."