

great discrepancy existing is pretty strong evidence for believing that none of them can be considered trustworthy. A great change has taken place within the last few years in the views concerning the "Causation of Cancer." Formerly the battle was between Local and Constitutional origin, now both have been set aside and the Microbe has taken their place. Heredity was also supposed to exercise a very great influence upon the developement of cancer but now since the belief in Bacteriological Pathology has become almost universal, hereditary influence is accorded a very secondary place indeed. Formerly when the hereditary nature of cancer was considered well established, among the first questions asked a patient suffering from a suspicious growth was one bearing on the occurrence of cancer in near relatives or ancestors. Now there is very little value attached to this question, and since the growth of the parasitic theory of cancer, hereditary influence has been given a very insignificant place in the causation, and all that is now claimed for heredity by those who look upon cancer as a parasitic disease is that the soil favorable for the growth of the parasite has been inherited. The parasitic theory does not prohibit belief in cancer being a local disease and by attaching less importance to heredity and constitutional causes, has had a beneficial effect upon the means used for the removal of the disease. Cancer in this respect has followed Tuberculosis. There are two causes that have played an important part in the old and new theory of causation; I mean irritation and injury. Formerly it was held by many that cancer was a purely local disease and resulted from chronic irritation or injury previously received. On the other hand, some maintained that cancer was always constitutional and that the only part irritation or injury played in the production was one by which its locality was determined. Now that Bacteria are thought to play the principal part in its production, irritation and injury are supposed to determine its locality as with Tubercle. It is difficult to obtain evidence to show that either one plays even the very secondary part that is claimed for it by believers in the Bacterial origin of cancer. Cancer is very often found in the Mammary gland of the human female, both irritation and injury being looked upon as determining causes; the udder of the cow is almost immune, yet we all know that the