

new operations that surgery may perform for utilizing the therapeutic force offered by radium.

I have treated cancer of the larynx by performing tracheotomy, and cancer of the intestines after colotomy.

Even for the introduction of the tubes by natural orifices the skill of the surgeon is needed.

Cancers of the œsophagus, of the rectum, benefit greatly by radium treatment, but on the express condition that the seat of the cancer be exactly located by œsophagoscopy or rectoscopy, so that, by these means, the radium tubes may be placed on the exact point.

I can speak of a case of cancer of the rectum which, treated in April, 1909, has regressed in such a manner that the patient, a year and a half after, is still in an apparently good state.

But I wish to lay stress on a particularly successful case: it concerns an English colleague. He had been attacked by cancer of the neck of the bladder; the diagnosis had been clearly made in England first, and was confirmed in France, each time with the cystoscope. The patient suffered considerably, had frequent mictions, lost blood, and a nodule was felt in the prostate.

I asked Dr. Pasteau, a distinguished urologist surgeon, to make the application. With great skill the place was marked by the urethroscope, and the apparatus placed every time in the right place without any breaking or irritation of the mucous membrane, and with a gentleness of hand indispensable in such a case. The treatment began in November last; little by little the pain diminished, then ceased; the other symptoms also weakened to their disappearance, and now our colleague is in excellent condition.

Is he definitively cured? It is very difficult to say or to foresee the future, but let us at least consider the present.

At the present moment our English colleague is a happy man, full of hope, once more enjoying life, and when he compares his present state, eleven months after, with what, without radium, he knows would be his state, it is impossible for him not to have for this therapeutical agent a great deal of gratitude.

There remains yet another most interesting use for radium in combination with surgery. This resides in the property of radium to cause decongestion of the tissues and modify the virulence of cancerous cells. And so in a difficult case, if radium be first applied, when the knife intervenes, it will encounter ground where the virulence will be greatly less.

But cancer is not the only ground on which we find such services rendered by radium to surgery in preparing the way for the bistoury by previous action.