

## ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

## THE CANCER PROBLEM.

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Is cancer preventable? Is cancer curable? Is it contagious? Does it run in families? Is it true that the disease is on the increase and that practically all attacks are fatal? No; cancer is not a hopeless, incurable disease. If taken at the beginning, the majority of cases of cancer are curable. Practically all cases, however, will end in death if let alone. The only cure for cancer is to remove every vestige of the disease, and the only absolutely sure way to do this is by a surgical operation. Records of our best hospitals prove that the chances of cure are very high with early operations, and that these chances decrease with every day of delay. Since the disease rarely causes pain at first it may be very easily neglected during the early and more hopeful stages. Moral: Learn the danger signs so that you may guard against its insidious onset in your own family and be able to extend comforting and intelligent advice to others in case of need.

## A DESTROYER OF MANY LIVES.

Cancer is one of the most prevalent and menacing diseases of modern life. It is estimated that it causes over half as many deaths in the United States as does that other great scourge, tuberculosis. There is this difference, however: tuberculosis prevails at all ages, while cancer is essentially a disease of adult life. At ages over 40, one person in eleven dies of cancer. One woman in eight, and one man in fourteen, over forty years of age, is attacked by the disease with fatal results. Because of public ignorance and neglect, cancer now proves fatal in nine out of ten cases. If, however, proper precautions and treatment were observed, most of the deaths which occur from this cause might be eliminated.

Cancer is, moreover, a disease of special interest to women. It has been estimated that between the ages of thirty-five and forty-five, three times as many women as men die of cancer. Between the ages of forty-five and fifty twice as many die. This high degree of death among women is due to cancer of the breast and of the generative organs. It is encouraging to remember that these forms of the disease, like all the other forms, are usually curable by competent treatment in the early stages.

Although there is much that we do not know about the cause and cure of cancer, there are enough things that we do know, and on which all medical men of repute are agreed, to enable us to prevent at least 60 per cent. of the 80,000 yearly deaths which it causes in the United States.