

thank for her improved condition. I have had, unfortunately, too many of these cases and too few of those in the first stage, but I have had the pleasure of seeing apparently dying woman almost at once become comparatively well. In a few cases I have curetted them a second time at the end of three months more, but as a rule the one curetting has sufficed, and they have died peacefully and painlessly from cancer of the liver from six to nine months later, surrounded by their friends to whom they were no longer an object of disgust. Now, how can they avail themselves of this merciful treatment unless they know the necessity for it? It is more than we can expect, and certainly more than we often find, a women willing to submit to an operation without knowing the nature of the operation and why it is to be done. If their condition is made known to them they readily consent to have it performed.

In the third stage, where the whole pelvis is filled with a cancerous mass and the bladder and rectum involved, and nothing is to be done except to make death painless, what should be our answer to the woman who asks us what is the nature of her disease, and whether we can cure her. I have had such patients ask me if they could be quite cured in a month, when as events turned out they were fated to be dead and buried in less than that time. Shall we follow the golden rule and do to this poor woman as we would be done by if our positions were reversed? And would we not wish to know the truth so that we might prepare for death?

At the beginning of this article I said that duty should be our first consideration, and I hope I have shown that it is our duty in this case, as in all cases, to tell the honest truth. But even from the infinitely lower standpoint of expediency, I hope to show that it pays to tell the truth.

When we hear a friend lying from kindness or expediency, does our opinion of that friend go up or down? When we have heard him telling a woman with cancer that she will be all right soon, and telling us five minutes later outside the house that he believes she will be dead in a week, and when we have heard him saying the same two opposite things in twenty other cases, will our faith in his word be as