

Still, the sudden incursion of an army of Association visitors can hardly fail to tax its resources to the utmost. A general invitation has been issued to members of the profession to exhibit objects of interest in the museum. Inventors and manufacturers can also make their entries at a trifling cost for groundspace. In either case application should be sent in to the secretary of the Museum Committee, Astolat, Bournemouth, before the 20th of June next.

D.W.

May 10th, 1891.

Meeting of Medical Societies.

THE ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

Toronto, Wednesday morning,
June 3rd, 1891.

The President, Dr. W. H. Moorhouse, of London, in the chair.

The meeting was called to order, and Dr. Wishart, the secretary, read the minutes of the last annual meeting. The reports of several committees were presented, after which the ordinary work of the session was proceeded with.

Dr. Teskey, of Toronto, read a paper entitled,

THE CAUSES AND TREATMENT OF CARCINOMA.

He stated that there were two theories as to the cause of cancer, (1) considering it to be an abnormal growth of epithelium, the result of the action of an irritant; (2) that it is due to a special microbe.

The effect of irritation on living normal cells always tends to death primarily, although excessive growth comes on as a sequel. This law is not followed in the development of a carcinoma, where we find pathological, supplanting physiological, processes. Prolonged irritation is sufficient to account for the occurrence of a carcinoma, as in the irritation of the lip in smokers, exemplified also in the development of carcinoma about the genitals, in chimney-sweeps' cancer of the scrotum, in the breast, etc. There is no reason to believe that cancer is hereditary; on the contrary, one's personal experience would lead one to conclude that, as a rule, there is no trace of hereditary tendency.

It is probable that the disease may manifest itself primarily at some distance from the point irritated. This is illustrated in the two following cases. Case 1. A primary scirrhus tumor in the axilla, developing secondarily to irritation of the thumb-nail. A blow on the thumb-nail led to effusion of blood, which remained unabsorbed, and for three years the thumb remained in an unnatural condition. At the end of that time a lump appeared in the axilla; this was supposed to be an enlarged gland, consequent upon the absorption by the lymphatics of irritating material from the thumb. An operation was performed; the thumb-nail was scraped and some granulation tissue removed, but the lump in the axilla continued to increase in size, and one year after the scraping the patient died from an axillary scirrhus. Case 2. A lymphatic carcinoma developed in the submaxillary region. In the sublingual region there had been a slight abrasion in the mucous membrane, which appeared as a small ulcer, without hardness. Age may be looked upon as a predisposing cause.

One is led to conclude that the evidence put forward by scientific investigators goes to prove that foreign germs have nothing to do with the development of carcinoma. In considering the treatment, it is well to enquire whether or not nature makes any attempt to bring about a spontaneous cure. The cases which occasionally occur of the atrophic form of cancer, where the cells are replaced by cicatricial tissue, appear to answer the question in the affirmative. A case illustrating this condition occurred in a woman who consulted a medical man eight years ago. She was told that she had a mammary cancer, and a bad prognosis given. It was thought that without operation she might live six months; with operation life might be prolonged two years. She declined operation, and one year ago (seven years after the tumor first appeared) she presented herself with a large tumor of stony hardness in the right breast, a small ulcer on the surface, with a retracted nipple. During the past year the size of the tumor has altered little, the ulcer is somewhat smaller, and the patient is still living. There can be no doubt in this case as to the nature of the tumor; it was undoubtedly scirrhus cancer. As to the method of dealing with cancer by operation, one would conclude that if an abrasion, fissure, or ulcer, resists