

without being aware of it, overcame in some way the obstacles that ordinarily prevent successful inoculations. Within the last few months a melanotic sarcoma was readily transmitted to a rabbit and in a few weeks had given rise to metastases throughout the body.

At all events we are too little familiar as yet with all the conditions necessary to produce successful inoculations. How many people have already ingested myriads of cholera vibrios by way of experiment and have subsequently felt no ill effects? Our methods at the present day are in many respects imperfect, and failures do not necessarily render the general underlying principles fallible.

On much that has been written on the contagiousness of cancer and its frequent occurrence in people who live much together I cannot touch, nor of the plausibility of the so-called "cancer-houses," which are marked as being contaminated. I would merely conclude by suggesting that until some other reasonable explanation is afforded we are not in a position to despise the parasitic theory of cancer formations.

It has been so often urged, and with apparently great emphasis, that in the majority of cancerous growths there is associated some chronic irritation, it may be a slight and persistent one, that I cannot close without referring for one moment to this theory. Whereas it is true that in a great number of cases some irritant is associated with the development of carcinomata, yet in the vast majority of instances the self-same irritant may be at work in just the same mild chronic and intermittent way and yet never induce a cancer. Of the number of men who use clay pipes there is surely but a small minority in whom cancer develops on the lip, while in the cases of cholelithiasis how rarely do we find cancerous conditions of the gall-bladder. It is true that with almost every case of cancer of that organ gall-stones are associated, but the mere presence of the cancer, implying as it does some destruction of the epithelium, etc., will supply a most ready nucleus around which concretions can form. Considering, then, how common are gall-stones and how rare is malignant disease of the gall-bladder, the latter would seem to be the primary condition and the cholelithiasis a secondary result. The same holds true to a more marked extent perhaps in calculi of the urinary bladder, which, in themselves so frequent, yet only under the rarest conditions are associated with epithelioma of that organ.

If it be true that chronic mild irritation can stimulate epithelial cells to overgrowths of a malignant type, we have yet to explain why this condition does not more often result from such a pressure. The persistent irritation which produces a *clavus* never, or scarcely ever,