

nature, prevalence and treatment of malignant disease with the object of creating among the people "a healthy vigilance which leads to the taking of expert advice on the first appearance of danger signals."

"There is nothing that any one of us can do to prevent the occurrence of cancer except in avoiding certain specified causes of local irritation," says "Health News" in an editorial which opens the discussion. "On the other hand, there is incontrovertible testimony as to the probability of its cure in a large percentage of cases if taken in time. That cure consists in the complete surgical removal of the growth at the earliest possible moment. Early diagnosis, early removal—there is not now nor has there ever been any other successful method of curing the disease."

The leading article in this special issue of the Health Department's Magazine is by Dr. Francis Carter Wood, Director of Cancer Research at Columbia University. Additional papers are contributed by other notable figures in the scientific world, including Frederick L. Hoffman, LL.D., statistician of the Prudential Insurance Company and chairman of the Statistical Advisory Board of the American Society for the Control of Cancer, and Dr. Harvey R. Gaylord, director of the New York State Institute for the Study of Malignant Disease.

Writing on "What People Should Know About Cancer," Dr. Wood endeavors to dispel some of the mistaken popular notions which have grown up regarding this disease. He disposes of the stories regarding "cancer villages," "cancer houses," or "cancer belts," briefly showing that the occurrence of a number of cases in a house usually is due to the fact that the occupants are old people; that "cancer villages" usually are small towns from which most of the young people have emigrated, and that in like manner "cancer belts" are found to be sections of the country where the population is distinctly aged.

The idea that cancer is hereditary is likewise made light of by Dr. Wood, and he declares that there is no reason whatever to worry because one member of a family has suffered from the disease. "It does not at all follow that any other member of a family will have it," says Dr. Wood, and quotes from the laws governing statistics to show that if there are two or more cases in a family it is due purely to chance.

The quackery which is practiced by unscrupulous people in the treatment of cancer is severely censured both by Dr. Biggs and by Dr. Wood. It is made perfectly plain that cancer is comparatively easy to cure if it can be taken in time. The Bulletin declares that if the simple truth is thoroughly established that cancer begins in comparatively