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OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF CANCER OF THE TONGUE.*

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The interest in cancer has increased of late years for two reasons. First, hope of securing better results has gradually developed. This increased hopefulness has resulted from two doctrines, the one, agreed to now by all pathologists, that cancer is primarily a local disease, and the other, that there is, in some cases at least, a pre-cancerous stage. Cancer being primarily a local disease, it becomes the duty of the family physician to strive to recognize it in its earliest stage, and the duty of the surgeon to remove it altogether, to completely eradicate it so that not one cancer cell is left behind. Of not less importance is it to prevent the occurrence of any local condition that may under any favourable circumstances take on malignant action. With this object in view, the wise physician advises his patient to consult a dentist at regular intervals, that no carious tooth may cause ulceration of the jaw or projecting point irritate the tongue, and smoking should be prohibited during the secondary stage of syphilis. The accoucher should take a far-seeing interest in the condition of the breast of his patient and thus prevent the occurrence of sore nipples and the train of pathological conditions so frequently resulting from them.

Another stimulus to greater interest in cancer is its increasing frequency of occurrence. Park, in an article in the May number of the

*Read at Meeting of Maritime Medical Association, Halifax, July, 1898.