

to bring into the light the conditions which permit nature to assert herself by the removal of the barriers which prevent her normal action.

B. E. M.

*Cancer of the Womb; Its Symptoms, Diagnosis, Prognosis and Treatment.* By FREDERICK JOHN McCANN, M.D. (Edin.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.); Physician to In-Patients, Samaritan Free Hospital for Women, London; Lecturer on Gynecology, Medical Graduates' College and Polyclinic, London; Honorary President Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Fifteenth International Medical Congress, Lisbon, 1906. London: Henry Frowde, Oxford University Press; Hodder & Stoughton, Warwick Square, E.C. 172 pages and 46 illustrations.

Dr. McCann states that in this book he has endeavored to give a concise account of our present knowledge in regard to cancer of the womb, each type of the condition being illustrated by one or more clinical instances and a plate representing a microscopical section of the growth. The first chapter is devoted to a detailed description of the anatomical conditions present in the uterus. As regards the etiology, the majority of pathologists are now of opinion that cancer is a disease of the epithelium characterized by excessive and atypical growth, together with, in the later stages, an inflammatory reaction in the stroma of the affected tissue, and the various hypotheses which have been advanced from time to time in explanation of this epithelial growth are dealt with. In this connection the author protests against instruction of the general public in the early signs and symptoms of cancer, owing to the fact that it can only give rise to injurious mental disturbance, especially in women. Uterine cancer is discussed under the principal headings of "Cancer of the Cervix" and "Cancer of the Body of the Womb." Dr. McCann emphasizes the importance of a due appreciation of the initial symptoms of the disease in view of the fact that many cases may be cured if operation is undertaken at an early stage. In the chapter on surgical treatment of uterine cancer he describes supra-vaginal amputation of the cervix, abdominal total extirpation of the cervix, vaginal hysterectomy, and Schuchardt's operation. He advocates the extended abdominal operation as