

ing and have pointed out to us that certain cancers are increasing, others remaining stationary, and others decreasing, although the aggregate has increased. Various causes are given for the increase of deaths reported as due to cancer and also for the alleged increase of the disease itself. I have mentioned improved certification as the one upon which I place most reliance. I may mention improvement in Diagnosis so that many cases are now returned as cancer that would not have been diagnosticated as such a few years ago. This is a two-edged weapon and there may have been many cases diagnosticated as cancer in the past, that would now be classed among the non-malignant diseases. There is some evidence to show that the length of human life has increased and as cancer especially Scirrhus and Epithelioma is a disease of middle and late middle life, this would naturally account for some increase. If there are more people alive at 60 than were one hundred years ago, there are more people with the cancer liability or as we might say in the cancer age. Closely related to the causes of the increase in the number of reported deaths from cancer are the causes that are said to have led to the increase of the disease itself. Among the laity in this and other countries the increased consumption of the tomato as an article of diet is looked upon as a cause and it is really surprising how widespread this belief is. In France the increase is said to be due to the increase in the consumption of meat as an article of diet, and in Mahomedan and Hindu countries the prevalence of cancer among the British is attributed to their beef-eating propensities. The increased consumption of alcohol is held by many as a very potent cause. Increased prosperity by which the working classes are enabled to live better is also blamed for a great deal of the increase, for although experiments in innoculation were much more successful in the weak, debilitated animals, we are asked to believe that the prosperous, well-fed human animal is much more prone to cancer than his less fortunate neighbour. The increased mental worry of the 19th century has also been made to do duty as a cause of the increase of cancer, but that 70 Brewers die of cancer to 43 Doctors is scarcely compatible with this theory. The contrast between Lawyers and Clergymen is also very marked. I will only briefly refer to these reputed causes; noticing that the very