

gum or tarlatan. In vaginal dressings, either tubes or flat apparatus should be used, sufficiently protected and of suitable size, and should always be inserted with the most strict aseptic precautions.

*Cancer of the Uterus.* Radium treatment has been of great service in cancer of the uterus and other organs, and in inoperable cases not infrequently reduces the size of the growth, and results in considerable improvement of the general condition, thus rendering it possible to subsequently remove the tumor by a surgical operation. It has also been recommended from a prophylactic point of view, with the object of preventing or delaying recurrence of a malignant growth after a radical operation.

As has previously been said, Dr. Abbe, of New York, was the first to employ radium in the treatment of cancer of the cervix uteri, and he has since reported many successful results in this connection. Both Abbe and Wickham, are of opinion that in uterine cancer radium plays its most important rôle, and that the most brilliant results are to be anticipated from its use in this particular condition.

The selective action of radium rays makes this mode of treatment very applicable to gynæcological conditions. They also possess a greater power of penetration than the X-rays, and are therefore capable of influencing the neoplastic cells in the deeper portions of the growth. The recent advances in our knowledge of the physical qualities and dosage of radium also contribute to render the treatment more effective and more certain in its results.

As regards cancer of the uterus I have employed radium with satisfactory results in the following conditions: (1) In inoperable cases, with the object of rendering them operable, or if this cannot be done, of relieving the distressing symptoms; (2) When the general condition of the patient is so unfavorable that it appears inadvisable to incur the risk of an operation; (3) After operation, with the object of preventing or retarding recurrence of the growth.

Wickham and Degrais have published a large number of successful cases of cancer of the uterus. In their opinion the ideal procedure in inoperable cases is to first remove the growth partially or completely by surgical operation, and to subsequently give applications of radium.

They have treated successfully cases previously operated upon by Pozzi, Hartmann, Monod and Tuffier. In their experience irradiation has resulted in excoriation of neoplastic nodules, relief of pain, cessation of hæmorrhage and foetid discharge, and disintegration of the cancer cells in the deeper parts of the malignant growth. They report a case of recurrence after operation, in which improvement practically amounted to cure, the patient being well and free from recurrence four years later.