

## SURGERY.

## A CURE FOR EPITHELIAL CANCER.

By GEORGE G. BREWER, M.D., Baltimore.

Whatever tends to increase our capability of coping with a formidable disease cannot be uninteresting to the medical profession. Although cancer is a common disease, and one with which the surgeon and pathologist is familiar, it is a lamentable fact that it often baffles all treatment. I have always thought that the surgeon's knife was the proper and only treatment for cancer of every description. But my experience in treating an epithelial cancer lately has greatly changed my opinion. The subject of the case was a gentleman fifty years of age, stout and healthy. An epithelial cancer about the size of a hickory-nut located on the cheek near the ear. He consulted other medical gentlemen, who confirmed my opinion and advised him to have it removed. At his request, I removed it with the knife. Part of the wound healed in a few days, but the upper portion soon sprouted out with the cancerous disease. I then applied caustic potassa, not only to it, but to a considerable margin around it. In about ten days after the sloughing was over I found that the entire margin had taken on the cancerous disease, and my patient was in a worse condition than before the operation. At my request, he consulted several surgeons, who objected to operating any more, for fear of enlarging the cancer, and advised a soothing treatment.—poultices of bread and milk. This was followed without benefit for six months, when a friend gave him a recipe which I did not object to his using:

Chlor. zinci, gr. viij;  
Bloodroot, gr. v;  
Starch, gr. viij.

Make into a paste with honey.

The cancer was at this time nearly as large as a hen's egg. After applying the paste for two weeks he called to see me. I found it had diminished to half its former size. I advised him by all means to continue it. After a month's use of the remedy, the cancer was not larger than a dime. He continued to use it until the disease was cured. There is at this time nothing but a cicatrix, where before was a large epithelial cancer. I report this case for the purpose of calling the attention of the profession to this remedy in epithelial cancer, and do recommend those who have such cases to give it a trial.—*Philadelphia Medical Times*.

[The above prescription is slightly modified from that of Dr. Fell, of cancer-curing and advertising notoriety. The chloride of zinc is the active agent. Canquoin's paste, which is in considerable repute on the continent, is much similar, and is composed of chloride of zinc and flour equal parts, or one to two or three of flour, as may be deemed suitable by the surgeon. The constituents are slightly moistened with water, and the paste applied. It was Fell's practice to accelerate the action of the caustic by making incisions into the slough to its full depth and intruding slips of fresh caustic so as to act more deeply.—[Ed. C. M. T.]

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