

action are the comparatively weakly resistant cells of rodent ulcer, and various other pathological conditions of the epidermis, such as epithelioma of the skin and warty growths. Their destructive action has also been proved to be great in the case of cells of epithelioma of the lip and mouth.<sup>(2)</sup>

Dr. Wickham uses the word "cancer" in its widest sense, signifying the whole series of malignant new growths, histologically different, including epitheliomata, carcinoma, lymphosarcoma, lymphadenoma, mycosis fungoides, etc. Considered from this point of view he affirms, from a study of cases of tumors of each variety, before, during and after the treatment, that the malignant evolution of these tumors may not only be arrested for months, but that occasionally these tumors have entirely disappeared, giving the impression of real cure.

He writes: "To speak in a general way of the cure of cancer by radium, without specifying and explaining circumstances, is to make use of unscientific and inexact language; and too great enthusiasm in radium is apt to lead the doctor who possesses any to use too much, and thus deprive the patient of the benefits of other treatments which have already proved their utility, especially surgery. When a doctor who possesses radium is consulted in a case of cancer he should proceed as follows: (a) In cancers of the skin which are localized, superficial, non-inflammatory, and of rather small dimensions, radium is of great benefit, and he can, without exaggeration, assure the patient of a cure, but only on condition that the patient binds himself to come once each month for a long period to see the doctor, to catch the first trace of any relapse. (b) In all other cases, whatever their nature, the doctor must first consider if other means cannot do better. If surgery can do better (as in excision of the breast for an operable cancer, or in excision of a commencing and operable cancer of the tongue, etc.), then radium can be suggested to consolidate the cicatrix after operation; treatment by radium is then an auxiliary to surgery, and I consider it better than the X-rays on account of the penetrating power of the radiations. When dealing with a new therapeutic agent which has given such brilliant results from some points of view, one must be armed with all one's *sang froid*, and observe the facts with justice. The question thus presented of the part which radium is actually able to play in the fight against cancer places it, in spite of the reservations enumerated, in a good position, because it is a valuable auxiliary in sufficiently experienced hands and in certain cases which one must know how to distinguish."<sup>(3)</sup>