

nearly all the cases I have seen, this appearance was well-marked at some stage of the disease. In three or four of the cases, the histories of which I have given, it really was the only symptom to guide in the diagnosis. I should, therefore, regard it as one of the strongest indications of the existence of malignant disease where its location was at all obscure.

From my own experience I conclude that, in no form of disease is the medical man more likely to be thrown off his guard, and to be utterly disgusted with the results of medical research than in those of the malignant type. I am quite persuaded that here is a field for scientific investigation as broad as any in the whole domain of medical science, and gathering around it issues as momentous to the human family as are found to be associated with any other conceivable form of disease. I am equally certain that we have not reached, as yet, anything like a satisfactory solution of the mysteries surrounding this class of ailments. We want some one who can unravel the mystery of the origin of the cancerous dyscrasia. We have plenty of literature upon the pathology of the disease, but very little that is really valuable. After all, it is a very poor satisfaction, especially to the unfortunate patient, to be able after careful microscopical examination, to say that he died of cancer of some kind. There is a good deal of force in the remark which I once heard one of those queer characters make, whom we see retail at auction, in the market square, patent medicines of various kinds. He wound up one of those brilliant perorations, i. e. which he discoursed most eloquently upon the marvellous powers of the remedy offered, with the significant query, "What's all the world to a man when his wife's a widow?" Well, so we may say, what's all our scientific disquisition upon the nature of the appearances of that which killed our patient going to avail so far as he or she is concerned? In short, of what avail is it at all, if it is not helping us at least to relieve those who may afterwards suffer in a similar way? That the subject of cancer has thus far completely baffled all who are engaged in medical research will not be denied, at least so far as it has helped us to a successful treatment of the

various forms of the disease. We are just as powerless, either to overcome the susceptibility to cancerous disease, or to successfully control it after it has clearly attacked the system at the present moment as we ever were. It is true, we know, or we think we know, that cancer is a local manifestation of a general or constitutional contamination, and that the products by which this systemic contamination occurs are elaborated in the blood. Beyond this we are unable to go. It is true, also, that the surgeon's knife has been pretty freely applied in some cases, with the effect of hastening the fatal issue in the vast majority of those who have submitted to the operation, and in the remainder, of only postponing it at best.

But if pathologists have already reached a rational solution of the nature of cancer, so far as to be satisfied that its development in any organ or tissue of the body is but a local manifestation of a general systemic contamination, and that the products of this contamination are originally elaborated in the blood, we may be nearer to the grand solution of the mystery than we would now be prepared to believe. If this doctrine as to the origin of these diseases be the correct one, and I do not for one moment doubt it, then why should we not reasonably hope that a means exists already, and that, in the not far distant future, it will be discovered by which the profession may control the disease as effectually at least as we now control the constitutional effects of the syphilitic poison? I doubt if there is any conceivable form of disease that afflicts humanity for which a remedy has not been provided somewhere in the wide domain of nature.

Since, therefore, we have discovered, in mercurials and iodide of potassium, an effectual means of neutralizing, if not entirely eliminating from the system the syphilitic poison, and since, also, we have found in the cinchona bark and its alkaloid, as nearly as possible, a specific for the treatment of intermittent fever, it is not unreasonable to expect that it will fall to the lot of some one, at no distant day, to present to the world a remedy by which the cancerous dyscrasia may be not only controlled, but entirely overcome; and the profession will be in a position to relieve a degree of suffering in society, such as must be personally realized in order to be accurately described.