

The efforts of this society have met with the most cordial reception. Boards of health, medical societies, insurance companies, and individual physicians have shown great interest in the work, and have taken an active part in the campaign to diffuse such knowledge of cancer as everyone should possess.

What is this knowledge? It may be summed up in a few words: Cancer is not a blood disease, but one which usually begins after middle life as a very small lump. If this lump can be found and cut out the cancer will be cured. Cancer is not inherited, nor is it contagious or due to a germ. Cancer is rarely painful, except in the last stages. While external cancer appears as an ulcer, a sore, or a lump, internal cancer can be told only by its symptoms—cancer of the stomach by dyspepsia, bloating, vomiting of food and blood; cancer of the bowels by colic, bloating, and passing of blood; cancer of the womb by bleeding at unexpected times or after the change of life; cancer of the kidney by blood in the urine.

If everyone who showed any of these symptoms immediately consulted a physician, especially one who has had a hospital training, and knows how to make the modern laboratory tests and to use the X-ray machine in diagnosis many lives would be saved.

Distrust the physician who does not have a microscopic examination made of any lump of the nature of which he cannot be certain. Most early cancers can be diagnosed only in this way. If one waits for all the symptoms to appear, it is often too late to save life.

While we do not know the cause of cancer despite all the investigations which have been made by scientific men, yet we do know a great deal about how it occurs and what is apt to precede it, and our lack of knowledge as to the cause does not prevent our being able to cure it. Many diseases of which we do not as yet know the real cause are nevertheless curable. So we find that cancer frequently begins in moles or warts which are irritated or rubbed by the clothing or made to bleed or kept sore by repeated injury of any sort. Such warts and moles are perfectly harmless at first and become dangerous only after they have been irritated for a long time, especially if the person is of the cancer age—this, above forty. It is wise, therefore, to have such moles removed if they are in a situation where they are liable to be rubbed or injured.

BEGINNINGS OF CANCER.

Physicians have noted, also, that cancer may develop in a scar of an old burn, or in places where a chronic ulcer forms, as on the lip or tongue or leg, and it is important to see that such injuries are healed as soon as possible. Ulcers on the tongue or cheek are frequently caused by the scratching of a poor filling or by the sharp point of a decayed