

from her ordinary medical attendant, until her case is hopeless for radical cure. In rare instances even when opportunity for examination has been given, the true nature of the case is not suspected. In my experience the worst case of this kind was that of a woman who was sent to me by her medical attendant in the hope that I might be able to cure a vesico-vaginal fistula, the result of cancer of the cervix that had extended to and perforated the vesico-vaginal septum. This neglect of uterine cancer is due more than anything else to the delusions so universal in the popular mind concerning so-called change of life, delusions which I regret to say are shared by a small though I am pleased to say diminishing section of the general profession. Such are the prevalent ideas, that at the age of from forty to fifty women are subject to profuse and irregular discharges of blood, and that the essential symptoms of cancer are pelvic pain and foetid leucorrhœa. The experienced gynaecologist knows that, save in a few exceptions, menopause is not attended with menorrhagia or metrorrhagia, except when some form of organic disease exists, and that such symptoms demand prompt pelvic examination. If this be true of women who have not yet attained menopause it is vastly more true of those who have ceased to have discharges of any kind for months or years, and yet I have known a number of instances of women of fifty and over, one of sixty-five, in which the appearance of a bloody discharge was welcomed, and announced with pride to her friends by the woman as a return of the distinctive characteristic of womanhood,—as a renewal of youth. One woman said to her friends, "I am getting young again." In my experience the appearance of bloody discharge in a woman who has ceased to menstruate means malignant disease and nothing else in ninety-five per cent. of the cases. In the other five per cent. the source of the blood is that interesting form of vaginitis which the late Professor Hildebrandt of Königsberg proposed to call "vaginitis adhesiva ulcerosa." As regards the significance of pain and foetid discharge, I wish to say with all the authority I may command as a consultant, that while invariably present in the advanced stages, they are almost as invariably absent in the early and manageable stages, and yet it has many times been replied to me when I had announced my diagnosis, "why the woman has had no pain or ill-smelling discharge."

If there is one early symptom of cancer more suggestive, even significant I ought to say, of the early stage of cancer of the uterus, cervix or body, it is the appearance of a thin, serous, slightly turbid, sometimes pinkish at first, and for many weeks usually inodorous, discharge. This so-called 'meat-water' discharge at any age ought at once to arouse suspicion in the mind of the practitioner consulted and lead him to in-