

cancer by the internal administration of remedies, for, notwithstanding the certificates of cure which are daily appearing in the public press and elsewhere, it may be safely stated that hitherto, internal remedies have been found to be without any value whatever.

And what can be said of the claims for excellence put forth on behalf of those external applications which are imposed upon a credulous and easily deceived public? *Pari passu* with the admittedly occult nature of the disease, the treatment, it is contended, is not within the usual bounds of ordinary medical knowledge. And thus the cancer curers, by plasters and unguents of mysterious action, have increased in numbers and in presumption. The ordeal to which patients sometimes subject themselves at the hands of ignorant but pretentious quacks, for the removal of supposed cancer, and the suffering and disfigurement which sometimes result, are conditions we occasionally witness, from the use of plasters long since discarded by the profession as unsafe, unscientific, unsurgical and uncertain. I once saw a woman who had had a wart on the back of her hand. It was a harmless excrescence on the skin, but a cancer-curer assured her it was malignant. Contrary to the advice of her family physician, she permitted a plaster to be bound upon the part. On her arrival at the hospital a few weeks later not a vestige remained of the dorsal aspect of the hand, neither skin, tendon, ligament, nerve, nor blood vessel; the metacarpals, from carpus to phalanges, were black as charcoal, and dead. The cutaneous palmar surface, however, still retained vitality, and after a while the patient returned home, carrying with her a limp, flexed hand, without the usual bony support, but buoyed up with the assurance that while her hand had been lost, her life had been saved. If the charlatan knew nothing of surgery, he could form some fair estimate of the patient's credulity, and he plied her with a text which suited her case exactly: "If thy right hand offend thee," and so forth; and was it not her right hand which had offended? Verily the text had been written in anticipation of her case.

I turn from esotericism and occultism to something more intelligible, where deduction from certain manifest qualities is the result of experimentation.

#### ITS TREATMENT.

The treatment of malignant disease by electrical methods has for some time attracted notice. Although success has not generally followed these attempts, yet patience and energy have sometimes been rewarded by marked improvement. "The healing of an ulcerated cancerous surface," says Lewis Jones, "has been observed in a certain proportion of cases; relief of pain in can-