

here exhibit the gland. The large lobe was removed from the left side, and the smaller one from the right side. At present, six months after the operation, there is no residual urine, and that passed is normal in appearance and in constituents.

A GROUP OF CASES OF MALIGNANT DISEASE-- INFECTION OR COINCIDENCE?

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It may be safely stated that nothing is yet definitely settled as to the etiology of malignant growths. Many theories have been advanced, but all lack sufficient evidence to substantiate them beyond reasonable doubt. It is pretty generally accepted that heredity plays an important part, but it must be remembered that many influences besides blood relationship similarly affect all members of a family, such as place of residence, diet, intimate association, care for each other in time of sickness, etc. The female sex, especially, would be apt to feel the effects of these influences, and we find cancerous disease much more prevalent among them than among persons of the opposite sex, though it is said to descend as readily from father as from mother. A few years ago the ravages of consumption in certain families were considered sufficiently explained when it was said that "it runs in the family." Now we have learned that just such influences as I have mentioned furnish the favorable conditions under which that disease is contracted one from another, and that heredity only supplies the suitable soil for the cultivation of the bacillus. True, malignant growths occur, as a rule, long after the family has been broken up and its members separated, but mere lapse of time would not in itself be conclusive evidence that such influences had nothing to do with the result. We know that the periods of incubation of known infectious diseases vary greatly, and it may be possible that there is a class of unknown infectious diseases in which this period is very greatly prolonged, and the process much complicated. The weight of opinion, however, is pretty strongly

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