

Many patients now present themselves for examination and treatment when the disease is considerably advanced, and it is hoped that by a widespread and accurate knowledge of the early signs and symptoms the number of such patients will gradually diminish.

Special attention is directed to the following :—

1. Cancer of the uterus is at first a local disease.
2. Cancer of the uterus is often a curable disease.
3. Operation is the only satisfactory method of treatment.
4. The earlier the disease is recognized the more hopeful are the prospects of treatment.
5. The risk of operation in early cases is slight, and the chance of permanent cure is good.
6. The recognition of early cancer is not usually difficult, and the disease should not be overlooked by the medical attendant.
7. A medical practitioner who fails to make a physical examination of a patient exhibiting any of the symptoms of uterine cancer incurs grave responsibility.
8. Treatment of symptoms without a physical examination is unjustifiable.
9. Early cancerous ulcers should not be treated with caustic; their appearance becomes masked, and valuable time is lost.
10. It is an error to wait and observe in order to arrive at a diagnosis.
11. In doubtful cases a diagnosis must and can be made in a few days.
12. To examine, to diagnose, and then to treat, should be the rule in all cases.

SYMPTOMATOLOGY.

Uterine cancer is at first a painless disease which does not affect the general nutrition.

The early symptoms of cancer are :—Irregular bleeding of any description, even if there be only traces; bleeding post coitum; and watery, blood-tinged discharge. There may be no loss of strength or wasting, nor any condition to alarm the patient. Pain, wasting, profuse bleeding, and foul discharge, indicate advanced disease.

As the majority of cases occur between the fortieth and fiftieth year, the symptoms are too often regarded by the patient as due to "change of life." The medical attendant should not accept this assumption until he is satisfied that cancer does not exist.

Bleeding, however slight, occurring after the menopause, should give rise to suspicion that cancer is present.