

ing by mouth with a tube and funnel and allowing the patient to go about on the second day. In reply to Sir Wm. Hingston's remarks regarding heredity, he wished to say that he did not believe in the heredity of cancer, but he did believe in an inherited vulnerability, and that this vulnerability increased with age. If all were vulnerable every one who smoked should get cancer of the lip. Dr. Bell advised amputation of the arm in certain cases where cancer involved the axillary vessels, but Dr. Shepherd said that if such heroic measures were necessary to remove the local disease, the case was past operating on at all. No account is taken in these very extensive operations of the involvement of the mediastinal glands. At present Dr. Shepherd had under his charge no less than three cases of recurrence or continuance of the disease in the retro-sternal glands, all other parts being free; in one of the cases the patient had been apparently free for four years. In very few of his cases has there been local recurrence; in two the cancer recurred in the bones, and in many in the liver, and some in the cervical glands. One case under care at present was free for six years, and then the cervical and other glands became involved. In another case, first operated on eight years ago, there was local recurrence four or five times, for which operation was performed early; now the patient is still alive and has been perfectly free for four years.

In reply to Dr. Roddick, Dr. Shepherd did not think that locality had anything to do with recurrence, and thought that people living in poor localities resorted to the surgeon later for the primary operation than the well to do, hence the greater frequency of recurrence. As to recurrence being due to the implantation of cancer cells, Dr. Shepherd did not place much credence in this, for in all the modern operations the knife goes so wide of the disease that the cancer cells are not disturbed. The statistics usually given are very fallacious, the results of old and new methods being contrasted when any one wants to emphasize the superiority of his own operation. He thought a great many cases were reported as malignant which were benign, and the speaker would not admit any case to be cancerous without a careful microscopic examination; hence the success of caustics, especially in the hands of quacks, for every case was said to be one of cancer. Caustics were strongly objected to, for their use often postponed operation by the knife until it was too late. The only cases in which the speaker used caustics were those of the cheeks and side of the nose; here thorough scraping and subsequent application of the actual cautery often proved beneficial.

Dr. BELL said, If we assume—and I have heard no dissenting