

we should especially remember that our patient can subsist without food, but not without water, which can be conveniently given either beneath the breasts or per rectum.

Bleeding, although often beneficial at the time, tends to prolong convalescence and is certainly not good treatment for the anemia. It may be indicated in cases of over-loading the right side of the heart.

In conclusion I must acknowledge my indebtedness for the pathological anatomy notes to various standard authors, notably the text books of Jellett, Dakin, Dührssen, Lusk, Jewett, Playfair, Winckel, and the "American Text-book of Obstetrics."

---

## MEDICAL ASPECTS OF CANCER OF THE BREAST.\*

---

By DR. WILLIAM OSLER.

---

Surgery has become largely the practice of medicine, and medicine, in part at least, the preliminary practice of surgery, in so far as making the diagnosis for surgeons and handing them our cases for operation. We consulting physicians see a cancer of the breast in two stages, because the patients come to us as the lesser of two evils; they prefer the opinion of the physician, who may possibly tell them that an operation is not necessary, to that of the surgeon whom they fear will surely tell them that an operation is necessary. I see every year three or four cases of cancer of the breast in its early stage, or cases of suspected breast tumor, but the cases to which I wish to call attention this evening form a more important group for the physician to recognize, namely, the late manifestations of cancer of the breast.

Now they may be grouped according to the metastases, for it is through these that we are brought into relation with them, into cerebro-spinal, thoracic and abdominal groups. We will first consider the cerebro-spinal. Owing to the fact that the metastases are almost as frequent in the bones as in any other part of the body, we see a proportionately large number of cases with symptoms pointing either to disease in the cranium, the spinal canal or the vertebrae. That point has not been sufficiently brought out, certainly not by medical writers. Statistics are available now from several of the large German clinics and the percentage is considerable.

The first case that called my attention to the matter was a remarkable one that illustrates the cerebral form of metastasis following breast cancer. Many years ago I was asked to see

---

\*Read at meeting of the Clinical Society of Maryland.