

last few years, physicians and surgeons (*Concours Med.*), recognizing their inability to cope single-handed with the two great scourges of mankind, tuberculosis and cancers, have joined their forces to fight with a greater chance of success. The treatment and prophylaxis of tuberculosis have occupied the minds of the best men of the medical profession, and the causes of the disease seem to be well known, while the study of cancer is still surrounded with countless mysteries. For many years careful observers have noted the transmission of cancer by heredity. Modern histologists are extremely divided upon the microbiological question of cancer. In some cases this disease seems to be infectious; it penetrates into the organism through some solution of continuity, at first being localized and later giving rise to secondary formations by a series of successive growths. Cancer is inoculable from one animal to another of the same species. It is probably inoculable from man to an animal. Many reported facts seem to prove that cancer is contagious. The contagion may take place through direct inoculation and also by means of soiled linen and clothes. M. Dave has mentioned the history of a young man, thirty-eight years old, who died of cancer of the tongue. A few years previous to his death, his father-in-law had died of an epithelioma, which after appearing on the ala of the nose, had spread over the face and superior maxilla; contagion evidently took place through the son-in-law smoking the pipes used by his father-in-law. The incubation of cancer varies from several months to a few years. About 72 per cent. of the cases die within five years from the date of the time of infection. Contagion is not common, however, for it requires a predisposition, fortunately not very frequent.

THE TREATMENT OF PUERPERAL FEVER.—The paper on this subject by Dr. Laphorn Smith in the *N. Y. Jour. of Gynecology and Obstetrics* is fertile in suggestive and advanced ideas. He urges that when there is the slightest rise of temperature, the clean doctor or the clean nurse should with a clean syringe give a vaginal injection of hot water with or without permanganate of potash. The vaginal douches should be repeated every eight hours. If in spite of this the temperature has not fallen within twenty-four hours the uterus must be washed out with plain

hot water and an iodoform-gauze drain be lightly packed in the uterus, the end being left like a lampwick coiled up in the vagina. If the temperature still keeps high after twenty-four hours we should draw down the uterus gently and thoroughly curette, and again wash out and drain with gauze. From the very first rise of temperature until the patient has recovered we should keep the great main sewer of the body, namely, the intestine, constantly flushed by means of small doses of sulphate of magnesia so as to carry off the ptomaines as much as possible. The only drugs required for internal use are quinine and alcohol. The coal-tar antipyretics by bringing down the temperature while the disease is rapidly progressing mislead us into false security so that precious hours may pass unutilized. Besides, the coal-tar group paralyze the heart, on the endurance of which the life of the patient greatly depends. If in spite of all that we have done the temperature continues to rise, and the life of the patient begins to be clearly in danger, let us explore the abdomen and remove the cause, even if this necessitates the removal of the uterus, before pyæmia or general peritonitis ensue.

THE EFFECTS OF ACIDS ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE STOMACH (*Centrabl. f. Klin. Med.*)—1. Acids throw down a considerable precipitate of mucus.

2. They increase the cellular elements of the gastric contents.

3. Their introduction is followed by butyric acid reaction, most marked after hydrochloric acid.

4. Larger quantities of the acids result in a considerable effusion of bile into the stomach.

5. They stimulate the secretion of pepsin, but have no influence upon the secretion of hydrochloric acid.

6. Their long-continued administration is followed by marked diminution of the secretion of hydrochloric acid.

7. Even in large quantities, hydrochloric acid produces no gastric disturbances. On the contrary, a continued administration of the acid is attended with a feeling of well being.

8. The difference in the effect between acids and the alkaline salt on the gastric functions consists in the fact that the alkaline salts dissolve the mucus and decrease the secretion of pepsin, while