

am sure it will cure it.' This the gentleman agreed to do; and in less than six months the tumor disappeared, and he got perfectly well."

This lady knew all the parties, and it was the success which attended the remedy in this gentleman's case which induced her to employ it in her own. The following is a verbatim copy she gave me of a the directions for using the oyster-shell powder:

"FOR A CANCER.—Bake a quantity, say half a peck, of oyster-shells for three nights in a slow oven. Then scrape out the *small white* part of the shell, powder finely, and take as much as will lie on a shilling once or twice a day in a little warm water or tea. If that affects the system too much leave off a day or two and commence again.

"Should an ointment be thought desirable, mix the powder in cream, lard or quite fresh butter without any salt in it, and apply it. This treatment generally requires perseverance for three or four months before its effects are seen. The shells to be used are those which are *concave*."

This lady lived for two years after my first visit to her, and ultimately died in an epileptic convulsion, when she was apparently in her usual health. The wound resulting from the separation of the cancerous breast never entirely healed, but she never complained of any discomfort from it.

I have been in possession of these facts for some years, but should not have made them public, owing to the difficulty I felt in explaining the *modus operandi* of the apparently simple remedy of powdered oyster-shell in so formidable a disease as a cancer—notwithstanding that I had seen in the case of the lady recorded so remarkable a result from the use of the remedy, and having every reason to believe, from her known truthfulness, the account she gave me of the gentleman who had experienced such decided benefit from it—had it not been for a conversation I had recently with Mr. Spencer Wells, to whom I related the substance of the foregoing statement. He informed me that he attributed the efficacy of the remedy entirely to the lime contained in the powder. He told me that since he had read Dr. McClintock's observations some years ago on the influence of the chloride of calcium in checking hemorrhage in patients who had tumors of the uterus, he had used lime largely in the treatment of these and other tumors; and he had become convinced that an atrophy and calcification of fibroid tumors, resembling the spontaneous change or degeneration not unfrequently observed in such tumors, was often produced or hastened by the use of lime. And he added that he had reason to believe that the change commenced in the coats of the arteries supplying tumors with blood; that these coats underwent first an atheromatous, afterward a calcareous degeneration—in either case with a diminution of the caliber of the vessel and a lessened supply of blood. If the lime were