

such operative interference greatly increases the rapidity of the growth of the tumor, and moreover the high mortality which often attends these operations has the unfortunate effect of deterring others suffering from cancer from submitting to operation at a time when the chances for permanent cure are great. We have no right to perform an operation that is attended with the gravest risk unless there is some prospect of being able to save the patient or at least prolong or render more comfortable his life. The fact that the patient himself desires the operation and is willing to assume the risk should have no influence in causing us to break sound surgical principles.

In the brief limits of this paper it will be impossible to speak in detail of all the various methods of treatment employed in inoperable cancer. When we consider the well-established fact that cancer is rapidly increasing throughout the world, and that in spite of the vast improvements in results of operative treatment, three-fourths of all cases become inoperable, we see at once the importance of the subject. If we cannot find any means to cure these patients it behooves us to do all in our power to discover the best methods of rendering the remainder of their lives endurable.

Personally I have long believed the solution of this problem of treatment to be so intimately connected with that of the etiology of cancer that there is little hope of accomplishing much with the former until the latter has been determined.

Eight years ago, in a paper before the Academy of Medicine, I expressed my firm belief that cancer was due to an infection from some extraneous micro-organism. It seemed to me then that the clinical and experimental evidence in favor of this theory was even then sufficiently strong to justify one in hoping that scientific proof would soon be forthcoming.

Those of us who had the privilege of listening to the admirable and convincing papers of Drs. Park and Gaylord at the last meeting of the Academy describing the recent experimental researches of San Felice and Plimmer, as well as their own, cannot but feel hopeful that the problem is nearing a solution.

The present paper will permit only of a brief discussion of the treatment of inoperable sarcoma.

THE TREATMENT OF INOPERABLE SARCOMA WITH THE
MIXED TOXINS OF ERYSIPELAS AND BACILLUS
PRODIGIOSUS.

The results of this method during the past year have