

ditions of a number of organs. In these examples of cancer they claim to have found the plasmodiophora by their method of staining.

By a very careful method, the writers have been able to make cultures from cancerous breasts and other cancerous specimens of an organism that resembles in its various stages of growth the plasmodiophora brassicae. This culture from the cancerous tumor they call the plasmodiophora carcimomtatis. These researches would appear to throw light upon the work of Russel and San Felice who discovered bodies they called blastomycetes.

But if we turn from the work of the above writers and attempt to obtain confirmatory evidence from the clinical study of cancer, we come to a most important and interesting phase of the question. Tuberculosis is a germ disease; and in its history we have infection by the germ, irritation of the tissues, the formation of tubercles, the ulceration of those, the saturation of the system with toxines, the presence of fever, loss of flesh, and death. If we turn to syphilis, another germ disease we have infection, the formation of a chancre, induration of the glands, fever, loss of flesh, toxæmia, the existence of gummata, ulceration, and often death when the disease is not controlled by treatment. Again, take leprosy. Here we have an infection, the formation of tubercles, the loss of tissue, fever, failure in strength, and at last death. In cancer there is the formation of a nodule, its growth, the spread of the disease to adjacent parts, the chronic poisoning of the system, fever, loss of flesh, the breaking down of the growth and the formation of an ulcerating surface, and the death of the patient. Shall we omit the word infection when we are clearly justified in using the term in speaking of tuberculosis, syphilis and leprosy? The strongest evidence we have of the parasitic origin of cancer seems to come from the clinical side.

The question has been raised "If cancer be of parasitic origin how are we to explain the origin of deciduoma malignum which is now admitted to a carcinoma?" Deciduoma is a malignant development from the foetal side of conception. The explanation is perhaps not far to seek, and when the truth is known may be the strongest proof of the parasitic origin of cancer. It is against all clinical experience to meet with cancer in the very young, much less the foetus. But grant that the uterus already contains the parasite of cancer when impregnation takes place, and it may be easy enough to understand how the foetal portions of the conception become the seat of a most malignant form of cancer. It is well known that this form of malignant growth follows hydatid mole with considerable frequency. May we not in this fact also have another stage of the process. The uterus is already the seat of malignant disease; conception takes place, a hydatid mole results, expulsion is effected, but the