

Cancer is greatly on the increase, and reliable statistical information is at hand in support of that opinion. "After all the necessary corrections," says the *British Medical Journal*, "there is an enormous increase in the registered mortality from malignant disease in all civilized countries having a complete register of causes of death."

"In London alone," says Dr. Caldwell Smith, "the cancer death rate has increased from 65 per 100,000 to 95 per 100,000 in five years; in fifty years it more than doubled. Observers have remarked that the increase is chiefly from visceral cancer."

The cancer death rate in England and Wales has increased between four and five times in fifty years.

On this side of the Atlantic the question of the increase of cancer has been carefully gone into by Warren, of Boston, and Roswell Park, of Buffalo—and no men in America, you will admit, are more competent to conduct an investigation of this nature—and the conclusion arrived at by both, independently of each other, is in favor of increase.

The State Board of Health of Massachusetts says: "Every year there is an increase in the reports to the State of the number of deaths from cancer, even when allowance is made for age and greater population." And Professor Roswell Park, speaking of his native State, says: "If for the next ten years the relative death rates are maintained, we shall find that ten years from now there will be more deaths in New York State from cancer than from consumption, smallpox and typhoid fever combined."

Statistics in Canada are as yet too incomplete to be of much value, but the experience of hospital physicians and surgeons is to the effect that cancer in Canada is greatly on the increase. It has been said by those who do not share this view that "a surgeon's personal experience is often misleading, as cases in which he is specially interested are constantly being sent to him by friends and former pupils, and one case brings another from among the public." That view I have taken carefully into consideration, but I am the more impressed as to the greater frequency of cancer than formerly, and as to its steady increase, from observation outside of my own special field of labor.

And while the fell disease is on the increase, medicine has effected little save by co-operating with surgery, to enable the knife, with all the safeguards asepticism can secure, to penetrate parts of the body hitherto regarded as beyond its reach.

The internal specific treatment of cancer, either local or general, has rarely been without claimants to the possession of some special knowledge of a remedy—knowledge claimed to have been acquired, inherited, or revealed. I should not be disposed to treat at all seriously the claims of those who pretend to cure