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Original Articles

CANCER OF THE UTERUS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DIAGNOSIS*

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In bringing the question of Cancer of the Uterus before the attention of this meeting, and particularly of this section, I do not do so with the view of introducing any new material on the subject, but rather to reiterate what we already know of a disease that takes as its toll one woman out of eight who have passed the age of 35.

To my mind the keystone of the whole treatment lies in the early diagnosis, for once our profession is thoroughly seized with the importance of certain comparatively simple signs just so soon will the early detection of this trouble become possible, and once the early diagnosis is made, it will be an easy matter to secure the proper surgical treatment. We may go further and say that not only should our profession at large be alive to these early symptoms, but it should be their duty to instruct their patients that neglect of attention to these signs will inevitably lead, in far too many cases, to a fatal termination, for once the disease is established the possibility of successful surgical interference is extremely remote. I think, therefore, that every medical man should be a missionary among his female patients, instructing them in a sound, rational way whenever the opportunity presents itself.

I can well remember a few years ago, when a student in medicine, we were instructed in the various symptoms of cancer, such as wasting, cachexia, anorexia, and other symptoms, which to-day we all recognize as among the terminal evidences of this trouble. I stated, we all recognize, but I am sorry to say that

* Read before the Ontario Medical Association, Peterboro', May, 1915.

