

author states: "While, therefore, the transformation of certain benign tumors into malignant forms has been shown to exist, this event is among the rare occurrences in the natural history of tumors." This position can be cordially endorsed, and is of the utmost practical importance.

In dealing with the origin of cancer the author reviews the embryonic theory of Cohnheim and concludes that it does not fulfil all the conditions. He then examines the "Theory of Cell Autonomy." The influence of mechanical pressure, distribution of nutriment, the influence of specified function and organization are taken up under this theory. To meet the objections to this theory three points have been emphasized: "1. The isolated cells have been altered and their growth tendencies increased by previous irritation. 2. There is a local predisposition to tumor growth. 3. There is a general predisposition to tumor growth." The author mentions the dictum of Billroth "without previous chronic inflammation cancer does not exist," and accepts this dictum as true for the vast majority of cases. The heredity in cancer is examined and concluded in these words: "The problem of heredity in cancer seems for the present insolvable."

One of the most interesting of his chapters is that in which he discusses the parasitic theory of the origin of cancer. In the following words the position of this theory is set forth: "In view of the considerations thus briefly reviewed it is impossible to regard as a valid hypothesis the conception of a specific group of parasites living in symbiosis with the cancer-cell and stimulating its growth and nutrition. All the facts are reasonably explained by regarding the cancer parasite as the cancer-cell." To this view we give our unqualified support.

The work is got up in the most superb manner of the printers and bookbinders art. The paper, type, illustrations and binding leave nothing to be desired. We recommend this volume as of the best we have seen in many a day.

A MANUAL OF GYNAECOLOGY.

A Manual of Gynaecology. By John Cooke Hirst, M.D., Associate in Gynaecology, University of Pennsylvania; Obstetrician and Gynaecologist to the Philadelphia General Hospital. 12 mo. of 466 pages, with 175 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1918. Cloth, \$2.50 net. The J. F. Hartz Company, Toronto, Canadian Agents.

In a small manual of 466 pages, it is no easy task to cover the essentials of gynaecology, but Dr. John Cooke Hirst has done well in this effort. He has covered the subject well and given most useful and carefully arranged information for the general practitioner. The skilful writer and experienced operator can tell what he wishes in brief space. The methods of treatment are trustworthy, and may be adopted as modern. The publishers have done well in bringing out a book of this sort. It can be recommended with much confidence.