

Utopian condition can only be approached by a careful study of this process in its very earliest manifestations and thorough extirpation the moment it is recognized, or seriously suspected. This idea of a pre-cancerous stage should enter more largely into the thoughts of the family medical adviser. Advice regarding the care of the mouth and teeth, the insistence upon absence from smoking during the secondary manifestations of syphilis—the care of the breast during gestation and lactation, may sometimes prevent the development of a *locus minoris resistentiæ*, and later on the pathological process called cancer. While we wait for the discovery of the cause of cancer and dream of an anti-toxin that will prove curative, let us make the most of present knowledge, and by removing as far as possible all suspicious influences, by zeal in striving to recognize the earliest indication of malignant growth, and by thorough removal as early as possible, to lessen the death rate from malignant disease.

There has developed recently a disposition on the part of both the physician and the surgeon to resort more frequently to surgery in dealing with non-malignant conditions of the stomach. There are cases of persistent ulcer of the stomach, persistent from deficient reparative power on the part of the patient and often, I suspect, persistent because of the unfaithfulness of the patient in carrying out conscientiously the directions of the physician, that are best treated by surgical methods. Here again we are greatly indebted to Mayo Robson. He has shown clearly the satisfactory results to be obtained by open incision, curetting of the base, followed by pyloroplasty, or better still by gastro-enterostomy. I can personally speak highly of the results of gastro-enterostomy, performed in suitable cases of persistent chronic gastric ulcer. These people are quickly transformed from a life of chronic invalidism to comparatively good health, and of usefulness. In the presence of an ulcerative perforation of the stomach wall or of uncontrollable hæmorrhage, surgery is doing splendid work in the saving of life. Death should but rarely result to-day from either gastric perforation or gastric hæmorrhage.

The reader of an address in surgery can hardly pass over without mentioning some of the more recent suggestions which, while as yet more or less visionary, may bear fruit in the near future.

It is suggested, for example, that internal hydrocephalus may be successfully treated surgically by establishing a communication between the ventricle and the subarachnoid space. This communication is to be brought about by placing a horse hair drain between these spaces. It is also proposed by the same means to drain a meningocele into the peritoneal cavity. You probably also have read the bold suggestion of