

Another encouraging thing to remember about cancer is that it is not contagious. In spite of the enormous number of cancer cases throughout the country we do not know of a single proved case of contagion. On the other hand, we have many reasons which practically amount to proofs that it cannot be transmitted. Nurses and others who are obliged to care for patients afflicted with cancer need have no fear of contracting the disease through their labors.

It is not a rare occurrence to find well-established cancerous growths, of which the individuals are wholly unconscious. In another class of cases, slight ulceration or persistent stomach or intestinal derangements, which are noted by the individual, but dismissed as of little importance, are found on close investigation to be of malignant character. As already stated, it is a great mistake to be continually looking for trouble of this kind, and the way to avoid this bad habit is to follow the system of periodic examination wherein the body is automatically protected against the development of unsuspected disease, and the mind is relieved of worry and responsibility in these matters.

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#### WHAT EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CANCER.

BY FRANCIS CARTER WOOD, M.D.,

(Director of Cancer Research under the George Crocker Special Research Fund of Columbia University.)

CAN'T you give me some hope, Doctor?" said the pale, sad-faced woman. "The children need me here so much. My husband died some years ago, and I am all they have. I did not know that an operation had to be done early. My mother had a cancer, and when this lump came I thought I knew what it was, but I did not dare tell anyone, or come to see you, because I had heard her say that operations did no good. I saw an advertisement of a salve, and so I bought some of that and rubbed it on, but it seemed only to make things worse. Now I come to you, and all you say is, 'If you had only come in time!' I did not know that a cancer could be cut out and never come back, if it was only done soon enough. There has been so much in the newspapers lately about wonderful cures with radium. I hoped you would tell me that I could get well without an operation, and now you say that it is probably too late!"

How often we physicians hear this sad story—of delay for months and years—of hope that something will happen—of fatalistic belief in the inheritance of cancer—of that thousand-year-old faith in an ointment well rubbed in, a faith that can be traced back to the ancient Egyptians.