

Dr. Janeway discusses the results secured with radium at the four principal institutions in Europe where it has been employed under the most favorable conditions, namely: Paris, London, Vienna, and Heidelberg. The reports from each of these European institutes justify the statement that radium exerts a selective and destructive action on the majority of cancers, but that this action never reaches to the more distant extensions of the deeper and more serious forms of the disease. In fact, there is good ground for belief that unless the greatest care is used in the application of radium the more distant portions of the cancer will be stimulated to more active growth. All users of radium emphatically express the belief that no operable cancers except those of the skin should be treated by radium in preference to operation. The true position of radium at present is that it does not cure the disease unless the cancer is superficial or is of a variety particularly susceptible to its influence.

For the last nine years Dr. Wickham, of Paris, has treated 1,000 cancer patients at the Laboratoire Biologique du Radium, and has found that while the influence of radium on all types of cancer is favorable, its effects do not extend to the limits of the disease in any but the most superficial varieties. The Radium Institute of London treated 467 cases during 1912. No patient has been classified as cured, since cancer is not regarded as cured until at least three years have elapsed without recurrence of the disease. Of 101 patients with the slow-growing, benign form of cancer of the skin, 31 were apparently cured, 41 were improved, and 12 did not improve. In cancer of the rest of the body, 15 cases were apparently cured, 156 improved, and 45 did not improve. At the Vienna Radium Institute, of 34 patients treated for all forms of cancer, 6 died during the treatment, 11 were essentially improved, 6 were slightly improved, and 3 were made worse. At the Samaritan Hospital in Heidelberg improvement was produced in about half of the cases, but no patient was cured. The establishment of the fact that we have in radio-activity an agent which will even specifically affect cancer is of very great importance. No other agent has been discovered which in any degree approaches its effectiveness. But from the evidence at hand, it is clear that at present radium may only supplement but not replace surgical treatment.

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#### CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The forty-seventh annual meeting of the Canadian Medical Association, at St. John, N.B., July 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th, will be remem-