

This applies especially to the squamous and spino-celled epithelioma, in which rapid involvement of the lymphatics and metastases occur, and which usually terminate fatally in less than two years. A-melanotic sarcoma originating in naevi is also not so amenable to radium. Malignant disease, the aetiology of which still remains more or less a mystery, holds a prominent position among the morbid conditions for which we have, for many years past, been anxiously seeking a remedy. It was one of the first, and is still one of the chief conditions for which radium is employed. In the early days its use was largely restricted to the more superficial forms, but its beneficial effects gradually led to its use in more deeply-situated cancerous growths, such as cancer of the uterus and other internal organs. The cases of this kind which were at first submitted to radium were, as a rule, those in very advanced stages of malignancy, in which surgery and all other measures had failed, and radium was applied only as a last resource when the patients were in a desperate condition. Under these circumstances it was obviously unfair to blame the remedy for its failure to bring about a cure, but in spite of this fact cases have been reported from time to time in which the local manifestations have disappeared and the life of the patient has been prolonged.

After the many vicissitudes through which radium therapy has passed since its first introduction into therapeutics, it may be said to occupy at the present time a firmly established position. In some conditions, notably cancer of the face, it may be regarded as the treatment of election, as it can be relied upon to bring about a complete and permanent cure in a very large proportion of cases, without leaving the disfiguring and contracted scars which so often result from surgery, and which so frequently are the site of the recurrence of the trouble. In such cases there is no other treatment which can compare with radium in the excellence of its cosmetic results. A further recommendation of radium in this connection is the ease and painlessness with which it can be applied.

The treatment of more deeply situated cancer has been attended with varying success, sometimes in desperate and inoperable cases with the most unexpected success. Whilst there is no doubt that a sufficiently extensive surgical operation, provided it is possible to remove all the cancer cells present, gives a fair prospect of recovery and freedom from recurrence, yet, if the disease is allowed to progress it reaches a stage when surgical removal is impossible. In these advanced cases, which