

organisms of cancer, if such exist. Caustic potash should not be used where large tumors exist, nor in the papillomatous forms on account of a possible severe hæmorrhage. It is useful in an early stage of epithelioma of the lips, and in small tumors of the hard palate. It can be used in stick form, or in solution with a piece of absorbent cotton, or with a glass tube drawn to a fine point.

Chloride of zinc can be used in stick form, or solution, or as a paste. The best form is as a paste, and the one I use is after the formula of Bougard, to which I add 20 per cent. cocaine. It destroys both normal and pathological tissue, although not in an equal degree, and its use is rarely indicated. I employ it in the papillomatous forms until the base is approached, and then use another caustic. It can also be injected into small tumors where caustic potash or arsenious acid cannot be employed.

Arsenious acid in the form of a paste, made by mixing together the acid and powdered gum acacia with water, is our most valuable agent in the treatment of epithelioma of the skin. The paste should have the consistency of firm butter. The strength should vary according to the character of the cancer to be treated. Marsden employed two parts of acid to one of acacia, but I prefer to regulate the strength according to the case, never making it weaker than equal parts, and never stronger than that employed by Marsden. It can be applied to any cutaneous cancer, and with proper precautions gives also most satisfactory results in many cases of epithelioma of the lip. A study of its action on such a tumor as already described, as existing in Fig. 1, will give an idea of the result obtained when the treatment is properly conducted. If the epidermis is unbroken it should be destroyed with some agent before applying the paste, as arsenious acid has comparatively little action on normal tissue. The paste should always cover an area considerably beyond the apparent limit of the tumor, as that is never its real extent, and should be left on from eight to twenty hours, depending upon the vulnerability of the part and the strength of the paste. From what I have already written you know the result that should be obtained, and you must use the paste in such a way as to get that result, either by making it stronger or leaving it on a longer period. The operator, however, is not justified in allowing too much destruction of normal tissue to occur. If the action has been satisfactory all the tissues within *a*, and some, if not all, within *b*, will appear to be necrosed, and beyond that area an inflammatory process of much intensity next the necrosed area will exist and extend with gradually diminishing intensity into the surrounding tissue; thus, if the tumor is situated upon the lower part of the nose, and it be somewhat deeply seated, the application, if