

believe, as Emmet has conclusively proved, that cancer of the cervix almost always begins in the cicatricial tissue in the angle of the wound, then by removing the cicatricial tissue and repairing the laceration we would put a stop to this dreadful disease. Moreover, if it is contagious, as it must be if due to a microbe, physicians and nurses should take greater precautions to disinfect their hands after touching a cancerous patient. The author knows of three cases of cancer occurring in nurses attending patients who died of cancer, and there was no trace of cancer in the family history of any of these nurses. When its contagiousness is more fully recognized, it may yet be possible to stamp it out by isolation of the patients.

*Its treatment*—If the disease were always detected early while still limited to the angle of the tear or to the mucous membrane of the uterus, total extirpation would in most cases be followed by cure. Unfortunately the majority of these women do not consult their family physician during the early stage; while in the cases in which he is consulted in good time he often fails to recognize the disease or fails to do the right thing promptly, viz.; to send her to a specialist for vaginal hysterectomy. If the hundred thousand physicians of the continent would each make one hundred and fifty mothers understand that irregular hemorrhages at the change of life are not natural, but on the contrary constitute one of the earliest and strongest symptoms of cancer, then vaginal hysterectomy would be performed much earlier, and the results would improve in proportion. Provided that the organ is freely movable, even if the disease has invaded the whole of it, vaginal hysterectomy with ligatures gives good result. If less movable the clamp method is more feasible. If firmly fixed and the disease has extended to the broad ligaments, the author prefers to make a thorough curetting and application of pure carbolic acid freely to the mucous membrane and then to perform Schröder's amputation of the cervix. Before closing up the flaps it is well to sear them lightly with the cautery to destroy the microbes. This has in the author's experience prolonged life from two to five years. In all cases care should be taken to disinfect all cut surfaces.