

He considers three stages in the development of the large majority of cases of cancer of the tongue:

1. *Predisposing conditions*, such as leucoplakia, ichthyosis, chronic superficial glossitis, which may not lead to a cancerous condition, but undoubtedly render the individual much more liable to malignant changes.

2. *Precancerous conditions*, such as warty growths, thick plaques, sore places, which, though not actually cancerous, inevitably proceed to cancer unless completely removed.

3. *Actual cancer*, in one of its various forms, when it is obvious to the surgeon, and which even excites suspicion in the lay mind.

The author furnished seven specimens of lesions excised during the precancerous stage on request of the Imperial Cancer Research. To the surprise of Mr. Butlin, all seven turned out to be young epitheliomata, on microscopic examination, in continuous sections.

The author doubts whether there are really any conditions perceptible to human sight and touch which are truly precancerous in the usual acceptation of the term, but are rather cases of early malignant disease.

The paper is accompanied by a beautifully colored plate showing the tongues from which the specimens were taken and also of the microscopic sections of the parts removed.

C. B. S.

Oblique Inguinal Hernia.

Mr. R. W. Murray (*B. M. J.*, June 16th, 1906) discusses the etiology and treatment of oblique inguinal hernia. He holds the view that in a large percentage of hernias in adults the sac is preformed, or, in other words, the bowel or omentum descends into a patent processus vaginalis. In the majority of mammals the muscular and aponeurotic structures forming the inguinal canal are practically the same as in man. The natural posture of the animal, whether horizontal or vertical, determines the potency or otherwise of the processus vaginalis testis. In quadrupeds this process invariably communicates with the general peritoneal cavity, and in rodents, although the opening is so free as to allow the testes to pass periodically from the abdomen to the scrotum, yet hernia does not occur in these animals. In the quadrumana, whose bodies are as often vertical as horizontal, the funicular process is very narrow, and in the higher apes and man the process is normally completely obliterated.

The author believes, from both clinical and post-mortem