

Miscellaneous.

The Treatment of Inoperable Malignant Tumors—Carcinoma.

I have two reasons for presenting a discussion of the treatment of cancer at this time: First, the importance of the subject, and, second, the hope that I have discovered a method which may result in saving many lives. It has been affirmed by Wutzdorff that there has been an increase in the number of cases of cancer in the last few years, and some, with Sir W. M. Banks, believe the increase is due to excessive meat eating. At any rate, it has been shown that many cases occur in robust and well-fed individuals and especially in the comparatively young of both sexes. It often happens that the presence of such a growth is not suspected until it is too late for operative interference because of the fact that the appearance of the patient does not indicate the progress of the disease. (Nothnagel). Many cases also occur which cannot be operated on because of the location, as when situated near vital organs or around important blood vessels. Then, again, there are patients who will not submit to an operation.

To the medical man has usually fallen the duty of caring for these classes of unfortunate cancer patients, and from time immemorial the professional mind has been taxed to discover some means of relief, some agent or remedy which might destroy the abnormal growth.

Lauder Brunton was the first to investigate the chemical composition of cell-nuclei, from which has been secured a compound called nuclein. This substance is an albuminoid and contains phosphorus. Nuclein is the most distinctive element of leucocytes, being the constituent by virtue of which the cell grows (E. R. Larned). Vaughn and McClintock have demonstrated that the nuclein is the germicidal agent in blood plasma and is furnished by the polynuclear leucocytes.

The bromide of gold and arsenic is another remedy which, in my hands, has seemed to prove useful in the treatment of inoperable carcinoma; but I have always used it in connection with other agents. I have had more confidence in the nuclein than in the bromide, chiefly, perhaps, because I have had two cures in which I did not use the bromide, while I have had none where nuclein was not used. I have come to consider the administration of nuclein and the bromide of gold and arsenic together as a most rational and valuable treatment in