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## EDITORIAL

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### CANCER IS INCREASING.

Cancer, probably the most dreaded of all diseases, is on the increase in America and throughout the world in spite of the fact that it is curable if treated early, says the United States Public Health Service. In its death toll in the United States cancer already ranks among tuberculosis, pneumonia, heart disease and diseases of the kidney, and it is much more feared than any of these. This is because of the ignorance of the public, the difficulty of detecting a cancer in its early stages and the fact that when it has reached the recognizable stage it has gone beyond the curable stage.

The medical world to-day believes that work for the control of cancer should be largely similar to that so successfully carried on in tuberculosis; that is, it should consist mainly in widespread education of the general public to recognize cancer in its precancerous state, it should train the people at the first alarm to seek the advice of a competent physician, and it should keep the public freely advised of the latest scientific knowledge concerning cancer, its causes, prevention and cure.

The first and most important requirement in such a campaign of education is that the public change its viewpoint. The United States Census Bureau for 1917 gave a total of 61,452 deaths from cancer as compared with 112,821 from pneumonia, 110,285 from tuberculosis, 115,337 from heart disease and 80,912 from kidney diseases. So it will be readily seen that cancer already ranks among the leading causes of death in this country.

Cancer is apparently increasing. The recorded death rate shows about two and one-half per cent. more cases every year. It has risen from 62.9 deaths per 100,000 of population in 1900 to 81.6 in 1917. Some of this increase is unquestionably due to an improvement in recording and