THE MODERN TREATMENT OF CANCER.*

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It is our first and urgent duty in the fight against this scourge not to overlook the fact that we have at our disposal reliable weapons in our fight against cancer, and not to neglect patients who are actually suffering, in no matter what stage of the disease they be, but to give them the best treatment available.

In the present state of our knowledge, the social measures to be taken with the purpose of fighting cancer should mainly consist in a concentration of our efforts to procure for as many cancer patients as possible the best available treatment.

What are these treatments?

Obviously they are not the treatments which charlatans or quacks are offering everywhere—modern Macbeth witches still mixing in their cauldrons:

"Eye of newt, and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and owlet's wing."

Beware of these most dangerous pseudo-scientists who have been flooding the world of recent years with cancer "cures" and alleged "discoveries of the cause" of cancer. It is no exaggeration to say that during the last ten years more than five hundred such cures or discoveries of the cause of cancer have been investigated, and have fallen to the ground. These modern quacks pose as members of the vanguard of scientific medicine, with their vaunted cures by electronics, gland extracts, colloidal substances. They are in reality only more up-to-date racketeers who take a heavy toll, not on ice, milk or liquor, but on the anxieties and fears of cancer patients. They have probably killed more of their fellow countrymen than "Public Enemies Number One, Two or Three," because they have prevented many cancer patients from receiving, at the proper time, the only reliable treatment.

These reliable methods of treatment are well known to-day.

In a matter of such importance, I have decided to support my contentions with quotations from recognised group or international authorities only. These conclusions have been recognised and proclaimed by a parliament of one hundred world experts, selected and brought together, in 1926, by the American Society for the Control of Cancer; that parliament was composed of fifty surgeons, ten radiologists, forty directors of institutes, laboratory men and celebrated physicians, congregated together on the quiet shores of Lake Mohonk, to discuss freely and to establish the foundations of the campaign which mankind should undertake against cancer.

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Never before had a meeting of the scope and purpose of this one been held. For its object was not to announce discoveries, not to discuss ultra-scientific points, not to debate tenuous theories, not to report unusual cases, but to take stock of such known facts concerning cancer as might be turned to the greatest possible account.

We radiologists were eminently satisfied with the unanimous endorsement by our co-members at the meeting of the following basic resolution: "The most reliable forms of treatment, in fact the only ones, depend upon surgery, radium, and x-rays." Truly, this was our Magna Charta, containing the first official and universal recognition of radiation therapy in the treatment of cancer. This fundamental conclusion has remained unchallenged ever since.

It has been re-affirmed and broadcasted:—
in 1929, by the Swedish Commission in charge of the reports on the use of the King Gustav V Jubilee Fund against cancer. "Outside of surgery only one method of treatment has shown results, viz., radiotherapy with x-rays and radium."
in 1930, by the Grand Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign: "The only reliable measures of treatment for cancer known at the present time are surgical operations and radiations."
in 1930, by the cancer experts assembled by the U.S. Senate on April 30th, 1930: "Surgery and radiation are the only treatments of cancer."
in 1931, by the U.S. Public Health Service: "Surgery and x-rays and radium are the main weapons which are used to combat cancer. They are used as a preventive and as a cure. They are employed as preventives when they remove precancerous conditions, and as a cure when they eliminate cancer itself."
in 1932, in a publication of the New York City Cancer Committee (of the American Society for the Control of Cancer): "Surgery and radiations in skilful hands afford the only reliable measures to cure cancer."
in 1933, by the American Society for the Control of Cancer, to the four hundred thousand visitors to its booth at the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago in 1933.
in 1933, by a great Insurance Company, whose widespread message was quoted at the International Congress on Cancer at Madrid: "The majority of cancers in the early stages can be successfully and completely removed or destroyed by surgery, x-rays and radium."
in 1934, by the President of the International Congress of Radiology held at Zurich: "We must be content with the methods of local treatment, surgery and irradiation that