

THE TREATMENT OF SKIN CANCERS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649345014

The Treatment of skin cancers by William S. Gottheil

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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WILLIAM S. GOTTHEIL

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OF SKIN CANCERS**

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TREATMENT
OF
SKIN CANCERS.

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PUBLISHED BY
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SURGERY CO.,
100 WILLIAM STREET, NEW YORK.

J. MACDONALD, JR., SEC'Y AND GEN'L MGR.



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1901

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PREFACE.



THE demand for a second edition of "THE TREATMENT OF SKIN CANCERS" is a gratifying proof of appreciation of my attempt to place the dermatological aspects of the question before the profession in a practical and useful way.

In the following pages I have endeavored to give a succinct account of the cancerous process as it affects the external integument of the body. The modern theories of its nature, causation, and pathology have been briefly dwelled upon; but especial stress has been laid upon the two points which are after all the only essential ones for us, its recognition and treatment. Whilst none of the important therapeutic measures that are employed are neglected, I have elaborated more especially the caustic method, which is the one that experience has commended to me. It is my hope that what I have written may do something towards taking this most eligible method of treating cutaneous carcinomata out of the hands of unauthorized practitioners, and placing it where it belongs, at the disposal of the profession at large.

W. S. G.

CANCER OF THE SKIN.

CHAPTER I.

Carcinoma is one of the most frequent of the new growths, and one of the most interesting. Its common occurrence necessarily brings it within the field of every practitioner of medicine, its malignancy partly justifies the popular horror at its name. The problems of its etiology, still unsolved, form a fascinating field for the scientific pathologist. Its appropriate treatment is a subject upon which opinions differ widely, and for which definite rules are hard to formulate. The general integument offers a specially favorable field for the study of this, as of so many other obscure affections. No where else in the body do we find so extensive an organ spread out in a thin layer, and accessible to our eyesight and our touch. No where else is it so readily possible to call in the aid of instruments of precision; no where else can we during life so readily apply the microscopic touchstone that has revealed so much to us. The majority of carcinomata proceed primarily either from the body surfaces covered with pavement epithelium, the skin and the mucous membranes, or from secreting glands that open on to the surfaces. In the skin, if anywhere, carcinoma can be studied to advantage.

I need say but little of the importance of such study. We are in the peculiarly favorable position in