

**THE FAILURE OF SURGERY
IN CANCER: AND WHAT HAS
MEDICINE DONE DURING
THE QUEEN'S REIGN?**

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The Failure of Surgery in Cancer: And What Has Medicine Done During the Queen's Reign? by
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SAMUEL KENNEDY

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Ever yours faithfully,
Sam Kennedy



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BY


SAMUEL KENNEDY

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PREFACE.

I FEAR I shall be abused in some quarters for issuing a book like this, and be accused of all manner of unworthy motives. I shall therefore set forth very briefly the reasons that have prompted and the motives that have influenced me in doing so.

1. My original purpose was to write a brief pamphlet, in which I might furnish a reply to the numerous enquiries that have reached me from far and near during the past seven years with reference to the "Five Test Cases" placed under a committee of distinguished surgeons to demonstrate the capability, or otherwise, of "Count Mattei's Homœopathic Remedies" to cure Cancer, so that, by furnishing a detailed account of their whole course and termination, I might at the same time refute the unscrupulously reiterated but utterly unfounded assertions on the part of many public journals and members of the profession that we had abandoned these patients in despair, and thereby acknowledged that the whole thing was, as alleged, "a delusion, a mockery, and a snare."

2. While engaged in doing this, in what would have been a simple pamphlet form, at the beginning of last year a remarkable volume issued from the pen of Dr. Herbert Snow, with whom I had had a passage of arms some ten years ago (see *National Review*, July, 1890). It was announced as setting forth Dr. Snow's "twenty-two years' experience of cancerous and other

tumours." I at once procured it, and having carefully perused it, felt intensely interested by the extraordinary admissions and assertions made therein, supported and confirmed by an array of startling statistics on the subject of cancer mortality as supplied by the Registrar-General. This led me to follow these statistics back to the year of our gracious Sovereign's accession, and to carry them down to the year of her Golden Jubilee, and then present them, as I have done, in all their naked truthfulness, so as to enlist every lover of his country to contend for and support Dr. Snow's conclusion, "that action by the State is imperatively indicated"—I would say *demanded*. I would have valued this book of Dr. Snow's still more had he told us how many thousand cases had passed through his own hands at Brompton and elsewhere during these twenty-two years, and how many of these, if any, were cured by means of operation; likewise, how many had their sufferings relieved and their lives lengthened; but of all this, to me, and to the general public, of chiefest interest, no account whatever is given.

3. Whilst prosecuting this interesting research on the same lines as are contained in Dr. Snow's book, there appeared another valuable contribution to this painful subject in a special number of *The Practitioner*—a very popular and ably conducted medical journal—embodying in separate articles the latest up-to-date opinions of the leading living experts (both here and in the United States of America) on the subject and treatment of cancer; and I felt that these latest utterances could not be overlooked if my survey of the subject would be complete. This added materially to the length of this book.

4. Then, having spent many earnest hours in the company of the Registrar-General and so many able practitioners at home and abroad, it flashed upon me that I might with advantage enquire what advance the science of medicine (or of healing by medicine) had made during the same remarkable epoch, and what advantage the nation, as such, had gained thereby. And here I found, and it was a dis-

appointing and painful discovery, that, so far as the actual treatment of disease was concerned, despite all the valuable discoveries of the past sixty years, the conditions of things in the physician's sphere was no better than that in the surgeon's, but, if anything, much worse; for whereas the *surgeon* seemed to have made a great and in some respects unparalleled progress all round, with the solitary exception of the *surgical* treatment of cancer, the *physician* appeared to have accomplished actually nothing, but had rather lost ground all round, so far as the severest forms of disease are concerned. Thus, the great decrease of mortality in such destructive diseases as *small-pox* and *typhus* fever are due not to any improved treatment of these diseases by means of old remedies or new, but almost entirely to improved sanitary laws and better feeding and housing of the poorer classes.

I searched in vain for progress under the regime of old physic, and I think the statistics copied from the Registrar-General's Official Reports will be deemed incontrovertible evidence. And then I turned, with relief and pleasure, in another direction to contemplate the only real progress that medicine has made this century, and found it furnished by the researches of the late Samuel Hahnemann, and confirmed increasingly by the splendid results obtained by his enthusiastic disciples. This, I think, will be abundantly demonstrated by the indisputable statistics which I am enabled to furnish.

5. In closing this outline of my little volume I beg to say that I have set nothing down in malice or envy or with a desire to injure my fellow-practitioners, but rather to rouse all such (however rough the awakening may appear to them to be) to survey their daily practice and its results, and ask themselves, Are they satisfied? Can they rest contented therewith? Looking at the undoubted results flowing from the use of the same medicines which they use (according to the law first propounded by the immortal Hahnemann), are they content to continue prescribing according to the old traditions,

or are they willing to accept the help in the divine work of healing which is open to them through the distinct teaching of Hahnemann, who was originally one of themselves, and employed no secret remedies, but such as are accessible to them all, and the healing power of which, prepared as he describes, can be put to the test in the space of a single week. The Governors of the Middlesex Hospital have just sanctioned an initial outlay of £465 17s. for apparatus, fittings, etc., and £550 for annual expenditure, for a thorough investigation of cancer. This investigation is expected to last for years. Let them sanction an expenditure of £100, and for three months place the beds of a single ward (fifty or sixty at least) under the charge of half a dozen of our leading homœopathic physicians and surgeons, and if by the end of that time the immeasurably superior results of homœopathic treatment be not fully demonstrated, I will undertake to revoke all that I have ever written, and acknowledge that I am worthy of universal contempt.

6. I would with equal earnestness appeal to all my homœopathic *confrères* at home and abroad, that whilst disliking, as they do, quite as much as allopaths—nay, I should rather say immeasurably more—all secret remedies (for it is notorious that the patent preparations now popular amongst the leading physicians of the present day far outnumber the secret remedies of Count Mattei), that they would put these remedies fairly to the proof, and obtain all the benefit they can obtain from them in the treatment of diseases to which they are alleged to be specifically adapted, and then adopt one of two courses; either, if they succeed in yielding good results, appeal to Count Ventoroli Mattei to declare their composition, whilst continuing their preparation; or, finding them to fail, or the Count to refuse their revelation, denounce him and them alike for ever.

Finally, in all I have written I have had, and can have, no selfish aim! I have had a very busy life during these past fifty years, and been prospered in my various work far beyond