

**TEN YEARS' RECORD OF
THE
TREATMENT OF CANCER
WITHOUT OPERATION**

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Ten Years' Record of the Treatment of Cancer Without Operation by Robert Bell

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BY

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"Sterility and its Treatment," "Influenza,"
"Chloroform and its Safe Administration,"
"Tuberculosis and its Successful Treatment," etc., etc.*

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PREFACE.

I KNOW I am taking upon myself a great responsibility in giving expression to the sentiments I feel it my duty to publish in the following pages. It is not, however, without mature consideration that I do so. The conclusions arrived at are based upon careful study, supported by results obtained over a period of ten years ; so that really there is something to go upon. Moreover, it is my good fortune to have obtained the co-operation of many of my professional brethren, whose success in the treatment of cancer on similar lines has been quite equal to my own. It is possible—indeed, probable—I may be charged by a limited number with employing language not quite congenial to them, but that contingency does not detract from the truth of my statements. I have said nothing which is

not primarily in the interest of the patient and the public, who placing, as they do, implicit reliance in their doctor, have a right to look for advice and treatment which are in keeping with the most reliable scientific knowledge. A man or woman has only one life, and cancer is a deadly disease if it is not treated properly, so that a patient suffering from it cannot afford to be experimented upon. Treatment, therefore, in each case ought to be based upon principles which have their foundations firmly established upon experience, not of a few months, but of years. It is a sad state of affairs which has so frequently been presented to us, consisting of one after another of reputed remedies for cancer that have, meteor-like, come and gone; not, however, before they have excited hopes only destined to be shattered in their inception, leaving poor sufferers more wretched than they were before.

R. B.

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PRIOR to giving in detail an account of the past ten years' work on this important subject, it will, perhaps, be interesting to my readers to learn what the circumstances were which led up to severing my connection with the routine practice which has for so long a period dominated the Medical Profession, and which has, so far, obscured the mental vision of its members ; and this, notwithstanding the fact that a successful result has never yet, and, I venture to predict, never will be obtained by the use of the knife in a *bonâ-fide* case of cancer. I hope I may be able to prove this to be the case later on ; not, however, that I do not ardently wish it were otherwise.

During twenty years I was connected with the Glasgow Hospital for Women as Senior Member of the Staff, and, therefore, had numberless opportunities for operating upon cancer, as well as upon other diseases requiring surgical interference, not only in my hospital, but in private practice. I had been taught that this was the only method by which malignant disease could be successfully treated, and, at the time, believed this to be true. But failure after failure following each other, without a single break, induced me to alter my opinion. Moreover, those failures compelled me to recognise and face the fact that, as sure as operative methods were adopted, the disease invariably recurred with renewed virulence, suffering was intensified, and the life of the patient shortened, which latter was, perhaps, matter for thankfulness.

Now this was not my experience alone, but that of every surgeon who relied upon and employed the knife in the treatment of cancer. Unfortunately, the public have

become imbued with the idea that cancer can only be cured by operation, whereas all the facts go to prove that this is far from being the case. It was this conviction that led me to abandon what I considered a culpable procedure. Acting as my conscience dictated, it goes without saying that I voluntarily sacrificed a lucrative portion of my practice. Moreover, I was laughed at for my pains, while my pretensions to be able to discover a method of treatment which would successfully combat this fell disease by rational measures were looked upon as visionary. It must be borne in mind that when my protest against surgical measures was made there were no Röntgen Rays, no Radium, to place reliance upon as therapeutic agents, and no Cancer Research Fund in existence.

My objective was, in the first place, to study, as closely as possible, the natural history of the disease. When I had, so far as I was able, satisfied myself on this point, I commenced my experiments on what is

considered to be the least virulent form of cancer—viz., epithelial or skin cancer, which is similar to that which attacks the mucous membranes. I was impelled to pay especial attention to this form of disease on account of the fact that a great many cases of cancer of the womb came under my observation at the Hospital for Women. I had not studied the natural history for any lengthened period before I arrived at the conclusion that the disease was not due to parasitic or microbic influences, but, on the other hand, was the result of gradual departure from normal cell change or metabolism, leading up to a pathological metamorphosis, which was engrafted upon a structure debilitated by injury or prolonged irritation*. But, as in numberless instances injuries existed, and irritation was frequently found to be persistent, without cancer manifesting its presence, it naturally occurred to me that there must

* See "Cancer: Its Cause and Treatment Without Operation," by the Author. Baillière, Tindall & Co.