

**CLINICAL NOTES ON
CANCER, ITS ETIOLOGY
AND TREATMENT**

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Clinical Notes on Cancer, Its Etiology and Treatment by Herbert L. Snow

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HERBERT L. SNOW

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CLINICAL NOTES ON CANCER

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ON

CANCER,

ITS ETIOLOGY AND TREATMENT.

*With special reference to the Heredity-Fallacy;
and to the Neurotic Origin of most cases of Alveolar
Carcinoma.*

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J. & A. CHURCHILL,
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1609 e. 1. 6

PREFACE.

THE following pages seek to convey, as briefly as possible, the practical experience of several years' work among cancerous patients. I have abstained from quoting rare cases which served to inculcate no useful lesson; but, on the other hand, have endeavoured to emphasize those points of clinical importance which seemed to me misconceived or unduly neglected; and, in one especial particular, to point out the fallacy of a widely-prevalent view, which I believe to work much mischief. No attempt has been made at elaborate description or exhaustive investigation; but the impressions received through constant familiarity with common every-day cases, and the deductions to which they gave rise, are set down "without prejudice." However imperfectly this has been done, I trust that the present little work, as a conscientious record of such observations, will not be found altogether useless.

40, NORFOLK TERRACE, BATS WATER,
October, 1853.

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CLINICAL NOTES ON CANCER.



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY.—GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.

THE term "cancer" is (popularly) applied to a group of diseases, whose most prominent common characteristic is their "malignancy"; that is to say, speaking very generally, their resistance to all known medicinal agents; their proneness to invade other organs and tissues of the body than those in which they have originated; their liability to recur after removal by caustics or by the surgeon's knife; the pain to which they commonly give rise, and the peculiar loathsomeness which attends the progress of many forms; and their tendency to destroy life. The degree of this malignancy varies greatly (1) according to the variety of cancer; (2) to the organ or tissue attacked; (3) to the age and constitution (probably also, in some measure, to the habits) of the patient,—the first of these being probably by far the most important factor. We meet also with many anomalies and irregularities, of course, of symptoms, and of progress; as