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EDITORIAL.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE CANCER CAMPAIGN.

In an influentially signed letter published in the press an appeal is made for a fund in support of imperial research into the causation and cure of cancer.

The signatories say:—"We are still ignorant both of the causation and cure of cancer. Many other diseases have yielded their secrets to patient investigation, and there is no reason to suppose that the problem of cancer will not eventually be solved. . . . The first step towards finding the cure of cancer is to discover its cause. To find that cause no effort must be spared. Every possible line of research must be diligently explored. More men must be set free to devote themselves wholly to research, and their work must not be hampered or prevented by want of money.

"The new concerted movement will be called the British Empire Cancer Campaign. It will be governed and directed by an Executive Council, the members of which will act as chairmen of small working committees, each dealing with a separate aspect of the cancer problem.

"Medicine, surgery, human pathology, chemistry, physics, radiology, animal and plant pathology, hygiene, and vital statistics will all be represented by committees, whose work will be so co-ordinated by the Executive Council acting, in fact, as a central clearing-house. The Council is anxious to make it clear from the outset that it has no wish to interfere with the work already being carried out. Individuals and institutions now working on the cancer problem will be helped and encouraged, and, where practicable, financially assisted.

"In this way investigation can be carried

out simultaneously along many lines, and the results of these inquiries will be brought into the common stock of knowledge. A discovery in any one branch will be made known to all, and may lead to discoveries in other branches. It is in this co-ordination of effort that our most confident hopes are placed."

The British Red Cross Society has placed its organization at the disposal of the Council of the Campaign, and as the activities of the Society have now been extended to include questions of health in time of peace, it could not help forward a more urgently needed piece of work.

The widespread and terrible ravages of cancer are a matter of common knowledge, and to have a share in its abolition would be a supreme happiness to any investigator.

The Signatories appeal for a large sum of money to the British public in the United Kingdom, and in the Dominions and Colonies overseas. A generous donor has given a sum sufficient to cover the preliminary expense of the appeal, and therefore all future contributions will be expended in encouraging, assisting, organizing, and administering systematic research and treatment on a scale which has hitherto been impossible.

Cheques should be made payable to the British Red Cross Society, crossed "British Empire Cancer Campaign," and sent to the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., C.B., 19, Berkeley Street, London, W.1, or to Lloyds Bank, Ltd., 71, Lombard Street, or to any of their branches or agencies at home or abroad.

None know better than nurses, whose duty so often it is to care for patients suffering from cancer, the amount of agonising pain and grief which will be abolished when cancer is a curable disease. Our profession will devotedly support the British Empire Cancer Campaign.

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