

remove causes of chronic irritation in these sites. Apart altogether from cancer, people should attend to these conditions in the exercise of common care for their general health and fitness.

In this category, for example, and for reasons just given, come the removal of rough stumps of teeth or replacement of badly fitting dentures; a change of habit if pipe-smoking is found to produce soreness on the same spot of the lip or tongue; an alteration of clothing which causes irritation of particular regions of the body—for example, the breast; the avoidance of constipation and other like matters. On the same basis the possibility of establishing a chronic irritation in a region liable to cancer gives an additional reason for obtaining advice and treatment in disorders of the stomach, bowels, or womb.

VI.—DIAGNOSIS OF CANCER.

Early diagnosis is of the greatest importance. This means not only diagnosis of the actual existence of cancer, but, even more, diagnosis of the existence of abnormal conditions that are common precursors of cancer. Cancer itself in its early stages is almost invariably unaccompanied by pain, and is sometimes painless throughout. This painlessness of cancer in its early stages is one of its most insidious dangers, since it leads the patient to delay seeking medical advice. Were cancer as painful in its early stages as toothache, there would be far fewer of those pitiable cases in which the patient first seeks advice when the cancer has reached a stage beyond all but palliative treatment.

Early diagnosis obviously depends upon co-operation between the patient and the doctor. Medical advice should be sought at once particularly if a tumour or lump is found in the breast, if an ulcerated condition exists on the tongue, lip or skin which does not heal in a few days, if there is persistent hoarseness, if a mole or wart shows a tendency to grow, if blood or mucus is passed with the stools, if there is bloody or offensive discharge at other than the normal monthly periods, especially at the change of life or after it has passed. Even with the greatest care and skill doubtless cases occur; but only after careful medical examination can it be decided whether such conditions are or are not indicative of cancer, and those who seek advice in these circumstances are taking a wise course quite apart from cancer possibilities. An abnormality is there, and whatever it is due to it should be treated and not nursed in secret.

NURSING ECHOES.

The final competition for the "Ross" Lawn Tennis Challenge Cup will take place at the Park Hospital, S.E.13, on Tuesday, September 4th, at 2.30 p.m., and the Matrons of the Metropolitan Asylums Board are issuing invitations for the event, which is sure to be enjoyable, and the contest keen for possession of the Challenge Cup.

A Course of seventeen Lectures on Tuberculosis will be delivered to Trained Nurses, Health Visitors, and Social Workers, at the Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, Brompton, S.W.3, on Tuesdays and Fridays in October, at 8 p.m., beginning on October 2nd and ending on the 22nd. The lectures will be delivered by well-known medical experts, with the exception of that on October 20th, when the Matron of the Hospital, Miss Redl, will lecture on "Home Nursing of Tuberculosis and Dispensary Management." Demonstrations will also be given in the Laboratory on "Bacteria and Staining," in the Museum on "Pathological Specimens," in the Wards on "Nursing," and also in the Dispensary and Out-patient Departments. The fee for the Course will be £1 1s., for a single lecture 2s., or for the Course, £2 2s. Further information may be obtained from the Matron of the Hospital.

The opening of the new Nurses' Home in the grounds of the Cowley Road Poor Law Hospital, Oxford, recently took place in the presence of many interested friends, amongst those present being the Mayor and other City Officials, and Mr. Young, Inspector from the Ministry of Health.

The Provost of Oriel said that for the first time they had really shown that they appreciated the services they owed to their nurses. The Board had long felt that it was not proper that their nurses should be accommodated, as they were, on the topmost floor of the infirmary, and had been considering the question of building, or renting, a nurses' home, and whilst they were thinking and hoping that in four or five years they might be able to do so, that house suddenly came into the market. It had every advantage—sunshine, fresh air, and was surrounded by country on three sides. It was almost in their own grounds, and gave that air of quietness which was needed for nurses resting after their night's nursing. The Board did not hesitate for a moment, and

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