Department of Reviews and Abstracts

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Selected Abstracts

Carcinoma

Ochsner: Cancer Infection. *Annals of Surgery*, 1921, lxxiii, 294.

People who eat largely of raw vegetables fertilized with human excreta, as the Japanese and Chinese, are very prone to stomach cancer, while the Hindus, who boil all food and water, are practically free from cancer of the digestive organs. In northern Europe, where human excreta are largely used as fertilizer, stomach cancer is much more prevalent than in Russia, Australia and America. The Japanese, who are very cleanly, seldom have skin cancer, which is relatively frequent among the less fastidious Hindus. These figures do not change when these people live together in other countries, e.g. the Philippines.

These and similar data incline Ochsner to the infectious theory of cancer. He holds that such factors as chronic irritation only prepare the soil for the infection.

R. E. WOBUS.

Nuzum: An Organism Associated with a Transplantable Carcinoma of the White Mouse. *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*, 1921, xxxiii, 167.

Nuzum found a minute, filtrable, gram-positive coccus in the Crocker mouse carcinoma No. 11. It occurred with considerable regularity in all the growths examined. He was enabled to obtain a pure culture of the coccus and found that by injecting this culture subcutaneously, he was able to produce tumors which were practically identical with the original growths, but usually disappeared after a while. These new growths, however, were transplantable, the transplants developing typical carcinomata in 80 per cent of the animals experimented upon.

R. E. WOBUS.

Evans: Malignant Myomata and Related Tumors of the Uterus. *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*, 1920, xxx, 225.

In the hope of determining the criterion of malignancy, Evans examined a series of 4000 myomata removed at the Mayo clinic. Among these there were 72 cases classed as malignant. These he divides into three groups; (1) those showing from 2200 to 12000 mitotic figures per c.mm.; (2) those having from 200 to 800 per c.mm.; and (3) those showing only an occasional figure or none at all. In this connection it is remarkable that there were none containing between 800 and 2200 mitotic figures.