in our hands, and one universally successful in a few days, has been swabbing with hydrogen peroxide full strength or diluted one half until the ulcer is pretty clean and then painting with 2% solution of chromic acid, once daily. The peroxide is used for its free oxygen and its mechanical effect in removing membrane so that the chromic acid may reach the base of the ulcer. The combination worked much better than either alone. Cure occurred rapidly, in from two to six days with hardly an exception.

Removal of the tartar from the teeth and oral hygiene are important.

Chauffard¹³ has reported very good results with methylene blue applications.

Good hygiene and wholesome diet are certainly valuable preventives. It is my belief that the disease is preventable by proper attention to the teeth, mouth and general condition. Vincent's angina and noma should become as unknown as hospital gangrene or typhus fever.

I wish to express my indebtedness to the assistant physicians of the South Department and the house officers for much assistance and to the visiting staff of the Boston City Hospital, for many cases on their services which they have enabled me to study.

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EPITHELIOMA. A RECORD SHOWING COMMON FACTOR OF IRRITATION AS A CAUSE.

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THIS note is presented with the purpose of recording the common occurrence of irritation as a cause of epithelioma and the question of hereditary taint as found among the patients treated by radium in the X-Ray Department of the Boston City Hospital.

Irritation as a cause of epithelioma has been long recognized. In fact, it appears to be a constant factor in a very large proportion of all cases. In Table I, presented below, out of a group of 150 patients, 32% gave a positive history of irritation to some benign growth or injury to the normal epithelial surface.

TABLE I.

TABLE SHOWING POSITION, ORIGINAL CONDITION, CAUSE OF GROWTH AND PREVIOUS TREATMENT OF EPITHELIAL GROWTHS IN 49 OUT OF 150 PATIENTS (OR IN 32—%).

Present diagnosis.	Situation of lesion.	Original skin condition.	Cause of growth.	Previous treatment.
1 Epithelioma, keratosis.	Right ear.	Rough spot.	Picked.	Not given.
2 Epithelioma.	Right eye and side of nose.	Normal skin.	Burned with acid.	Surgical, x-ray.
3 "	Left temporal region.	" "	Scratched with comb.	Ointments.
4 "	Lower lip.	" "	Pressure of pipe.	Not given.
5 "	Left side of nose.	Sebaceous gland.	Improper treatment.	Cautery.
6 Epidermoid carcinoma.	" " "	Normal skin.	Irritation.	Ointments.
7 Epithelioma.	Over left eye.	Pimple.	Not given.	Not given.
8 "	Middle left cheek.	" "	" "	" "
9 "	Middle right cheek.	" "	" "	" "
10 "	Lower lip.	Normal skin.	Pressure of pipe.	None.
11 "	Point of nose.	" "	Scratched.	Not given.
12 Epithelioma, keratosis.	Right temple.	Dry scab.	Picked.	Caustics.
13 "	Left corner lower lip.	Normal skin.	Pressure of pipe.	Surgical.
14 Sarcoma.	Left side of head.	" "	Scratched with hatpin.	" "
15 Epithelioma.	Right side frontal.	Pimple.	Irritated with pin.	Medical.
16 Epithelioma, keratosis.	Right side of nose.	Dry scaly area.	Scratched.	Not given.
17 "	Outer corner left eye.	Wart.	Irritated by removal.	" "
18 Epithelioma.	Left side of nose.	" "	Irritated by removal.	Caustics, surgical.
19 "	Right side of nose.	Normal skin.	Broken edge spectacles.	Medical, x-rays.
20 "	Left side of nose.	Blackhead.	Squeezing, irritated.	Not given.
21 Lupus.	Bridge of nose.	Normal skin.	Blow baseball bat.	Curetted, ointments.
22 Epithelioma.	Below right eye.	" "	Broken edge spectacles.	Salves, washes, x-rays, alum, mutton tallow.
23 "	Right cheek near ear.	Pimple.	Cut while shaving.	Surgical.
24 "	Right cheek.	Normal skin.	Scratched.	Not given.
25 "	Right cheek.	" "	Blow.	Medical, surgical, salves.
26 "	Inner corner left eye.	Broken skin.	Glasses pinched nose.	Ointments, etc.
27 "	Forehead.	Pimple.	Scratched.	Salves, etc.
28 "	Outer side right eye.	Wart.	Picked.	" "
29 Epithelioma, keratosis.	Nose.	Pimple.	Irritated.	Salves, caustics.

Present diagnosis.	Situation of lesion.	Original skin condition.	Cause of growth.	Previous treatment.
30 Epithelioma.	Under left eye.	Pimple.	Picked.	X-rays, oils, etc.
31 "	Middle right lower jaw.	Small wart.	"	Operation, recurrence.
32 "	Center lower lip.	Roughness of skin.	Pipe pressure.	
33 ? Epithelioma.	Temporal region.	Pigmented area.	Picked.	
34 Epidermoid carcinoma.	Bridge of nose.	Normal.	Blow.	
35 Epithelioma.	Forehead.	Small wart.	Scratched.	Salves.
36 "	Right temporal region.	Sore.	Irritated.	
37 ? Epithelioma.	Left wrist.	Pimple.	Picked.	Ointments, etc.
38 ? "	Left side of nose.	"	Irritated.	Electric cautery, etc.
39 Epithelioma.	Right outer corner lips.	"	Picked.	
40 Epidermoid carcinoma.	Behind right ear.	Wart.	Cut off.	Surgical, recurrence.
41 Epithelioma, keratosis.	Below right eye.	Scaly area.	Picked.	
42 Epithelioma.	Left cheek.	Normal skin.	Cut when shaving.	X-rays.
43 "	Lower lip.	Cold sore.	Picked.	Ointments.
44 "	Lower surface tip of tongue.	Normal.	Bite with teeth.	Washes, etc.
45 ? Rodent ulcer.	Neck, left side.	Dry scab.	Picked.	Salves, washes, etc.
46 Epithelioma.	Nose.	"	"	Curetted, etc.
47 "	Bridge of nose.	Pimple.	"	
48 "	Left temporal region.	Birthmark.	Scratched.	
49 "	Left side under eye.	Normal skin.	Broken edge spectacles.	Operation, x-rays.

This investigation was made with reference to the following:

(a) Accidental causes, irritation, etc.

(b) The question whether these same causes are aggravated or influenced by hereditary taint.

Accidental causes (a) are shown in Table I and (b) in Table II.

Whether hereditary influence is as great a factor as accidental causes, irritation, etc., cannot be deducted from these few cases.

In the first group of cases, of 150 patients, 10 were between the ages of thirty and forty years; this disease has been considered somewhat rare before the age of forty years.

In conclusion, I desire to call further attention to the unwarranted liberty granted individuals to prey on the unfortunate poor who suffer from malignant disease. These persons are allowed to advertise in the daily newspapers offering "certain cures."

TABLE II.
TABLE SHOWING THAT IN 15% OF CASES MALIGNANT DISEASE HAS OCCURRED IN PATIENT'S FAMILY.

Relation.	Sex.	Position of growth.	Cause of death.	Age at death.	Present state of patient and other details.
1 Mother's uncle.	M.	Mouth.	Cancer.	Advanced age.	Patient died of cancer; recurrence left side of face. Cause of growth given as chafing by bows of spectacles.
2 Mother.	F.	Liver.	Cancer.	72	Patient is well. Growth left outer corner of eye healed.
3 Grandmother.	F.	Cheek.	Cancer.	43	Patient's condition bad. Growth, rodent type on forehead progressing.
4 Aunt.	F.	Breast.	Cancer.	55	Patient had left breast removed. Disease is now stationary.
5 Sister.	F.	Abdomen.	Unknown.	60	Disease was on forehead. Healed.
6 Mother.	F.	Stomach.	Cancer.	71	Patient well; healed.
7 Grandfather.	M.	Left side of face.	Unknown.	83	Patient's growth under left eye not progressing favorably; serious.
8 Mother.	F.	Left breast.	Cancer.	72	Patient not progressing favorably. Serious condition.
9 Uncle.	M.	Cheek.	Old age.	87	Patient is well; healed.
10 Wife.	F.	Left breast.	Cancer.	62	Patient is doing well; healing.
11 Mother.	F.	Left breast.	Cancer.	42	Patient well; healed.
12 Brothers (2).	M.	Face and throat.	Cancer.	46+	Patient well; healed.

N. B. The above information is obtained from 80 cases; 64 patients gave negative heredity results, 12 positive, and 4 not known.

As far as results by treatment are concerned, there is apparently no difference, as much success has been achieved in both groups of cases. The essential consideration is that patients present themselves in the early stage of the disease when it is readily amenable to treatment with radium.

Borderland cases in keratosis have not been considered here, neither the occurrence of growths other than the original one of epithelioma in each case.

In this manner the disease is often allowed to spread, resulting in many cases in a hopeless situation, and sometimes death. This statement is made because patients are constantly coming to the department in advanced stages, absolutely impossible to treat; and in other cases they go to the hospitals only after they have spent every cent they possess, not to mention the waste of time, which in some cases extends over several years.