

Professor Koenig is to be congratulated on this last edition of his great work,—a work which during sixteen years has appeared in six editions, and which ever retains its high position of favor among the surgeons and students of the continent of Europe.

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TUMORS, INNOCENT AND MALIGNANT. Their Clinical Features and Appropriate Treatment. By J. BLAND SUTTON, F.R.C.S., Assistant Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, London. Octavo, 526 pages, with 250 engravings, and nine full-page plates. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Company, 1894.

This book has been written by Mr. Sutton with the idea of combining in the consideration of the subject of tumors both pathological and clinical knowledge. The result is a most readable and instructive book, of especial practical value to the physician and surgeon in general rather than to the pathologist as a specialist. The biology of tumors is an attractive field to the author, and in this department of the subject he is always at his best, drawing often from the field of comparative pathology to illustrate his subject. The fulness of minute detail required in a text-book of pathology is wanting, so that this book is not to be considered as a hand-book for laboratory use. Its treatment is rather a general one, dealing with broad facts and elementary principles. The illustrations are very abundant, and have evidently been chosen because their subjects are types of the classes described rather than because they are peculiar or unusual. A much more abundant presentation of drawings illustrating the minute anatomy of the various growths would, however, have added to the value of the work. Such subjects as glioma, neuroma, myxoma, and angioma are discussed without a single illustration showing the characteristics of their minute structure, and even the chapters on dermoids, which otherwise are especially full and satisfactory, are defective in this respect.

From the list of tumors he properly excludes all inflammatory

new growths due to the irritation of parasitic organisms,—*i.e.*, tubercular growths and syphilomata and actinomycotic growths. He retains, however, echinococcal hydatids, which are quite as distinct in their nature from those growths to which the treatise is devoted as are the infective granulomata proper. He then divides tumors into the four great groups of (1) connective tissue tumors; (2) epithelial tumors; (3) dermoids; and (4) cysts. Under each group the proper subdivisions are in turn considered, and of the more important species their special characteristics, as they occur in different organs or locations, are studied. The proper treatment and the results to be expected from treatment are quite fully detailed with each group. In the light of the cases published by Abbe in the *ANNALS OF SURGERY* for January last, it is interesting to note the author's declaration (page 121) that nephrectomy for renal sarcoma in children is absolutely unavailing. This opinion is based upon a series of fourteen operations, tabulated by the author, six of whom recovered from the operation, but, nevertheless, all died within a year from the disease. The remaining eight died from the operation. This but illustrates the necessity for recasting surgical dicta from time to time.

Mammary cancer from its frequency and fatality can never cease to be a subject of absorbing interest. It is given full consideration by the author. Exception, however, may well be taken to some of his teachings as to treatment, that they are not radical enough. In general he states that "the treatment which, with our present knowledge, offers the best prospect to individuals affected with mammary cancer, is early and complete removal of the diseased gland and pectoral fascia." He further classifies these cases into (1) Where the cancer is limited to the breast, does not implicate the skin or pectoral muscle, and has not induced appreciable enlargement of the axillary lymph-glands. For these, the extirpation of the breast and removal of the pectoral fascia, he says, "may be expected to give good results both immediate and remote." We cannot but think, however, this teaching to be fraught with danger; we are disappointed that greater

stress is not laid upon the fact that whenever carcinomatous degeneration can be detected in a breast the strong probability is that the lymphatic channels leading through the pectoral fascia into the pectoral muscle, and along the border of the muscle up to the axilla, have already become infected, and that no reasonable certainty can be secured in any case that all disease has been removed without the removal of the underlying great pectoral muscle, and of all the connective-tissue and glandular contents of the axilla, at the same time with the breast. Such a practical conclusion is the direct logical deduction from the pathological facts. We shall look for its statement in future editions of Mr. Sutton's book, for no one can appreciate the pathological conditions in such cases better than he. It matters not at all that such early wide dissemination is not always present; the important fact is that in the majority of cases it is, and that there is no means by which its absence can be certainly predicated, so that safety lies alone in treating every case as if that one was typical of the worst phase of the disease.

The second class of the author includes cases in which the cancer implicates the skin, but has not yet ulcerated,—moderate enlargement of lymph-glands.

For such cases he advises extirpation of the breast, cutting wide of the implicated area of skin, dissecting away the pectoral fascia and removal of the axillary lymph-glands, by which means he thinks that a long immunity from recurrence will be enjoyed by many such patients. The third class embraces those in which the cancer is ulcerated but the extent of skin implication is small; there is no adhesion to the chest-wall. The axillary lymph-glands are enlarged. Such cases, he thinks, may be submitted to operation, not with the hope of prolonging life, but simply in order to rid the patient of what will become foul, offensive, and a source of mental anguish. He lays down a series of five conditions in which it is inadmissible to attempt any operation. We will not quote them here, but simply make this general observation that the experience of some surgeons has shown that by sufficiently extensive removals of tissue some apparently

hopeless cases of cancer can be rescued. The author attaches too much gravity, we think, to *évidement* of the axilla, saying that it transforms a simple and safe operation into one often fraught with danger. To this we must take positive exception, for present abundant experience will sustain the accuracy of the statement that the operation of clearing out the axilla, in cases in which the tissues have not become matted together by adhesions and infiltrations,—that is to say, during the early history of mammary cancers,—when done by a skilful surgeon, is attended with no mortality, and entails no resulting serious disability. Its dangers are infinitely less than those which attach to the probable existence of early, though still unappreciable, infection of the axillary lymph-glands.

In view of the position of the author with regard to the treatment of mammary cancer, one is not surprised to find that in the treatment of uterine cancer he does not recommend the removal of the whole uterus except in cases of primary cancer of the body of the organ.

The book closes with a chapter each devoted to “The Zoölogical Distribution of Tumors,” and to “The Cause of Tumors.” The concluding paragraph of the book is worthy of reproduction here. It is as follows :

“It is a noteworthy fact that most pathologists who have taken comprehensive views of tumor-formation, and have made it a subject of serious and prolonged study, are of opinion that tumors innocent and malignant are, in the beginning, local troubles, and that the safest and most effectual method of dealing with them may be expressed in one short sentence :

*“Thorough removal of the tumor, whenever this is possible, at the earliest possible moment.”*

The book is of comfortable size to handle, is printed in good readable type, is profusely illustrated, and the author's style is clear and graphic.

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