

# Sex and Digestive Organs Prey of Cancer

*Medicine*

"If, in some manner or other, malignant tumors of the alimentary tract and of the reproductive organs could be prevented, cancer would retire at once to a relatively unimportant place among the causes of death."

This statement was made by Dr. Raymond Pearl, director of the Institute for Biological Research of the Johns Hopkins University after the completion of a statistical survey, made by himself and Miss Agnes Latimer Bacon, on necropsies performed on fatal cancer cases in the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

In summarizing the results of the survey in the *Archives of Pathology*, he stated that in men, malignant tumors occurred more frequently than anywhere else in the organs of digestion, such as the stomach, intestines, gall bladder and liver. In the women the cancers were found in the reproductive organs. These conditions are in general agreement with the cancer figures of the U. S. Census Bureau, he pointed out.

"The greatest discrepancy between the general population and the necropsy statistics is in respect of cancer of the skin," added Dr. Pearl.

"Patients with cancer of the skin die at home rather than in a hospital relatively more frequently than do patients with cancer of any other organ system. This fact means that such cases tend to be under-represented in necropsy statistics. The patient who enters a hospital with cancer of the skin in an early stage is discharged cured. But for the patient who lets his cancer of the skin go without treatment, or with the supposedly palliative treatment of quackery until it is destined shortly to be fatal, a hospital has little to offer."

From these studies it appears that more of the different organ systems of the body are susceptible to cancer in white people than in colored. On the other hand, a relatively larger proportion of the cancers of colored people occur in the digestive system and in the reproductive system than is the case in whites. The average age at death of people with tumors that had produced secondary growths or metastases, as they are known to medicine, was found to be from one to three years earlier than in cancer without such secondary growths.

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# Slaves Blamed For Disease

*Medicine*

Hookworm, malignant tertian malaria, bacillary dysentery, and black-water fever are some of the penalties the South is still paying for the importation of African slave labor, Rear Admiral Edward R. Stitt, Surgeon General of the U. S. Navy, told the Society of Tropical Medicine in Washington.

Of the many parasitic diseases with which Africa is afflicted, hookworm is the most serious in its transplanted home in the Southern States. A restricted area around Charleston, S. C., is infested with the parasitic worm that is responsible for elephantiasis, a disease widely prevalent in Africa. Sleeping sickness, however, though undoubtedly imported with many slaves, has never taken hold in this country on account of the absence of the tse-tse fly, its intermediate host.

"If, as I am convinced," added Admiral Stitt, "yellow fever was introduced through slave ships into the United States by infected mosquitoes, which Stokes has recently shown can transmit the disease after three months, we have here a curse greater than any of the curses which the Egyptians suffered through their enslavement of the Jews."

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# Wanderers Gather Pay

*Economics*

Young men who abandon one job for another inspire the hoary disapproving criticism, "Well, a rolling stone gathers no moss." But a survey of the histories of 170 high grade male clerks 20 to 31 years of age indicates that rolling stones often roll themselves into better positions than those that stay in one place, if they do not move about restlessly and aimlessly.

The investigation was made by Prof. Harry D. Kitson and Noel Keys, of Teachers College.

"The popular idea that the young man who remains longer with a given firm will outdistance the one who changes more frequently finds no support from the salary figures of this group," they will declare in reporting the survey in an early issue of the *Journal of Personnel Research*.

"As between working up in one concern and shifting from time to time, there is no indication that either method possesses any significant superiority."

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# U. S. Has Borax Monopoly

*Chemistry*

Exploitation of the kernite (also called rasorite) deposits in the Mohave Desert, Kern County, California, probably will result in killing off the mining of other borate minerals elsewhere in this country and in other countries, so that the United States will have a complete monopoly, according to Dr. Waldemar T. Schaller of the Geological Survey.

As far as is known, kernite, an entirely new mineral, exists nowhere else in the world. The deposit lies but three to four hundred feet beneath the surface, is more than 100 feet thick and extends at least 500 feet in every direction. It was discovered in 1926, and mining operations were begun approximately a year ago.

Kernite is virtually pure sodium borate. The material mined is over 75 per cent. pure mineral, the remainder being clay. To prepare it for the market it is only necessary to dissolve it in water, filter off the clay and permit recrystallization to

take place. Marketable borax is sodium borate, plus ten molecules of water. Kernite is the same sodium borate plus four molecules of water. During the refining process six molecules of water are added, so that one ton of kernite makes 1.4 ton, or nearly a ton and a half of borax. There is probably no other commercial mineral that increases its marketable bulk in such a fashion through the process of refining.

Previous to the discovery of kernite the world's borax supply was derived principally from the minerals borax, colemanite and ulexite. Italy procured it from volcanic steam containing boric acid. In each case the process involved was complex and expensive. In this country borax was formerly secured from mineral deposits in and near Death Valley, under dangerous circumstances, and had to be hauled from the mines by the familiar "twenty-mule team" to a distant railroad.

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