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A Cancer Journal for Clinicians

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“The extreme philosophies of the inexperienced, which are based on the behavior of cancer at either end of the normal distribution curve, lead to the nihilistic attitude that all cancer is hopeless, or to the equally unrealistic position that the cancer patient can be salvaged by almost any minor procedure. The constant reiteration of these fallacious principles in the literature and in training centers has done the cancer patient a great disservice.”

WHO: Dr. Theodore R. Miller, President of the American Radium Society.

WHERE: San Juan, Puerto Rico. March 17-19, 1960. Presidential address, Forty-second Annual Meeting of the American Radium Society.

“I have never seen a man who died of either squamous or oat-cell or undifferentiated carcinoma of the lung who has not been a smoker. I have made that statement throughout the country at every medical meeting where I have presented a paper and have challenged the audience to present such a case. I have been challenged, but in each instance unsuccessfully. Until this moment, I haven't seen such a case nor has anyone been able to show me one.”

WHO: Dr. Oscar Auerbach, Chief of Laboratory Service, Veterans Administration Hospital, East Orange, New Jersey.

WHERE: New Jersey. February 14, 1961. Bergen County Medical Society Meeting.

“Certain tumors in animals are 100% fatal without treatment—with chemotherapy, 15% survive—with X-ray or surgical treatment, 30% survive. Chemotherapy combined with surgical treatment permits over 70% of the animals to live. Our hope is to do as well for human cancer.”

WHO: Dr. George E. Moore, Director, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York.

WHERE: St. Petersburg, Florida. March 18, 1961. American Cancer Society's 1961 Science Writers Seminar.

“One hundred million dollars are spent each year by unsuspecting people on quack cancer cures. Coexisting in our society with legitimate medical care is a growing quasi-medical underworld which grosses each year from its victims a sum equal to one third to one half of the annual sales of legitimate manufacturers of ethical drug products.”

WHO: Dr. Austin Smith, President of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association.

WHERE: New York, N. Y. December 12, 1960. Annual Eastern Regional Meeting, Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association.

“From the practical point of view, the use of radioactive cobalt in nylon sutures sewn in cancer of the bladder gives the same percentage of cure as does surgery with the advantage that the patient is left with a normal bladder and a normal urinary tract (75% of the patients so treated have been cured).”

WHO: Dr. Vincent Vermooten, Assistant Professor of Urology, University of Texas, Southwestern Medical School.

WHERE: Orlando, Florida. Nov. 16, 1960. Southwestern States 1960 Cancer Seminar.

“The average urologist in private practice, in spite of diligent examination of his own and referred patients, seldom sees more than three to four operable prostatic cancers in a year. And this also is part of the enigma: We have a common malignant disease for which we know the cure, but for which we seldom have a chance even to try. This situation, upon reflection, resembles the state of carcinoma of the cervix some 30 to 40 years ago. Unfortunately, no clubs have been organized among elderly men to have a yearly ‘cancer check’ of their genital organs.”

WHO: Dr. James F. O’Malley, Department of Urology, St. Joseph’s Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri.

WHERE: St. Louis, Missouri. Oct. 31 to Nov. 3, 1960. Fifty-fourth Annual Meeting, Section on Urology, Southern Medical Association.

“Our findings during second-look procedures have taught us that earlier operations were not radical enough. Our conversion rate is about 10 per cent.”

WHO: Dr. Owen H. Wangensteen, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery, University of Minnesota, School of Medicine.

WHERE: Miami Beach, Fla. March 6-9, 1961. Twenty-ninth Annual Assembly, Southeastern Surgical Congress.