

# PLAN CAMPAIGN OF EDUCATION TO FIGHT THE CANCER CURSE

## National Battle Has Commenced Similar To That Which Worked Wonders Against the Great White Plague—Risk Is In Delayed Surgery.

Of the manifold transformations in habit, custom and procedure which have remade the world and revolutionized life during the last fifty years none are more important to the individual man and woman, perhaps, than the altered viewpoint of the medical faculty toward the general public.

Formerly men of medicine did not take the public into their confidence. There were several reasons for this. One was that the general public did not possess the general education which would enable it to grasp more than rudimentary ideas of sanitation and hygiene. In other words, the public mind was not prepared for the confidence which physicians now place in it, says a special writer in the New York Sun.

There was another important reason for the medical man's attitude; he was by no means sure of himself. He was still in the era of experimental practice to a far greater degree than he is today. He was not certain of his diagnosis or his course of treatment in cases that today are definitely charted. The practitioner of former times would have considered it highly dangerous to give a fever patient all the water he wanted to drink; to make a consumptive live outdoors night as well as day; to place a sufferer from pneumonia on the roof of his city home in freezing weather.

Medical research has given practitioners the confidence that accompanies absolute surety in directions which were largely experimental only a few years ago. Through newspapers and magazines, through college courses and schools and public lectures, has been aroused a great and widespread public interest in all matters pertaining to health, longevity and general well-being.

Thus it happened that as a result of many developments conditions were fitting some time ago for medical practitioners completely to reverse the attitude they had previously held toward the public; to take the public into their confidence, and urge it to assist them in stamping out disease formerly believed to be ineradicable.

**Tuberculosis Campaign.**

But a few years have elapsed since the campaign was commenced against the great white plague; with what results every intelligent person is familiar, and it marked more strikingly than anything else the complete transformation of the medical faculty's attitude toward the general public.

The actual cause of tubercular infection was ascertained without question and the conditions under which it thrived. Simultaneously was seen the remedy. Fresh air, sunlight, the best of food and plenty of it, rest of mind and body—and every hope for complete recovery—that, in brief, was the prescription, instead of long years of semi-imprisonment in close rooms and avoidance of fresh air.

Until the anti-tuberculosis campaign was fully under way the general public had but the slightest idea of the extent and the ravages of this disease in its neighborhood. It was realized that the campaign has resulted in victories for science and common sense hardly hoped for by its most sanguine supporters, the medical faculty has inaugurated other widespread campaigns against a foe even more insidious and more difficult to deal with—that of cancer.

The Congress of Surgeons of North Carolina met at Chicago recently and decided the entire subject, and especially to start a national movement for public education regarding the disease, in the confident expectation that thousands of men and women now suffering its insidious form may have their lives prolonged, that others may be wholly cured.

**Why Cancer Is Insidious.**

Up to the present time no man has arisen who can prove to the world of science that he knows absolutely and without question the exact cause of cancerous affection. This is what makes cancer a foe far more insidious to deal with than tuberculosis. The difficulty is increased by the fact that cancer is far more common than the public believes.

When a man gets appendicitis he knows it; he needs no confirmation besides that of his family physician. Likewise when tuberculosis is sufficiently advanced there is little difficulty in diagnosing it. Other diseases are recognized generally as being widespread. But the average person of intelligence has but the faintest idea of the earlier symptoms of cancer. Comparatively few who are afflicted with the disease realize that if surgery is resorted to soon enough it can be wholly eradicated. For these reasons the surgeons are undertaking a determined effort to impress the public with the fact that hope for the cancer patient lies not in serum or other like remedy, but in the knife. As Dr. Charles H. Mayo has expressed it:

"The risk is not in surgery, but in delayed surgery."

Preparations for the congress were commenced long ago. Among other systematic steps taken at many places throughout the country a meeting was held at the New York Academy of Medicine on May 15 last, where several men presented a symposium of opinions on the subject. One of these papers, entitled "Public Education in Cancer," was read by Dr. Willy Meyer, attending surgeon to the German and the Post Graduate hospitals, and has just been published in the New York Medical Journal. Without definitely stating that he accepts any of the theories as to the direct cause of carcinoma, Dr. Meyer leans decidedly toward the theory that a living organism is its cause.

The public continually asks whether cancer is contagious, and to this Dr. Meyer replies in the negative. "Never has it been observed," he adds, "that a faithful wife assisting a nurse attending a sick husband for months and a year has become infected with the same trouble; never has it been reported that a surgeon pricking himself in the course of an operation for carcinoma, was attacked with the disease. And yet this has occurred following an injury received during an operation for tuberculosis. Evidently transmission must go in carcinoma in a different way from individual to individual."

**Early Surgery Advised.**

The question as to whether cancer can be cured with an operation Dr. Meyer answers with a decided "Yes," provided the patient goes to a surgeon in the early stages of the disease. Observations throughout the world confirm this.

And just think, Dr. Meyer continues, "in what an advanced stage these patients not infrequently reach the surgeon. How many more could have been saved had they come to operation at an earlier period. Hence

remove the appendix. This is the goal we have been working for as regards this treacherous disease for many years. How many lives are saved nowadays by the proper recognition of the dangers of appendicitis by the public at large.

"At this moment it is scarcely necessary to discuss the question of how the public should be instructed. The ball, fortunately, has been started. We all know of the general publicity campaign that has been taken up by the cancer campaign committee of the Congress of Surgeons of North America. We know that the New York committee was formed with the support of wealthy people who have made it their business to promulgate among the public the truth regarding malignant disease. The way along which they have advanced is the correct one. Articles should appear in our weekly or monthly journals, and from these they should be copied in the daily press. It is understood that plans for an extensive campaign of public education have been carefully considered and announced at a certain stage of the proceedings of the Congress of North American Surgeons in Chicago. As a whole it is expected that this cancer education will follow that undertaken so successfully in the matter of tuberculosis.

**Campaign of Publicity.**

In addition to authoritative presentation of the entire subject every effort will be made to impress the public with the prevalence of the disease; of the way it progresses; of symptoms which every person of ordinary intelligence should notice and which should be called to the attention of a competent physician without delay. Special emphasis will be laid on this important point, for it is agreed at the present time that the hope of a cancer patient lies in just one thing—early and prompt appeal to surgical advice and treatment.

Information has not been given out as yet regarding the financing of a national campaign, but it is understood that a competent physician with a campaign and to further its success. It is not expected that members of the profession will themselves write articles for the press, but everything possible will be done to place information before those whose business it is to write and to comment upon the news developments of the world.

**SANTA CLAUS BOARDS A PULLMAN SLEEPING CAR.**

How Old Kris Kringle Visited a Little Lad on a Train.

(Washington Post.)

"Santa Claus never appeared so lovely to me as on last Wednesday, Christmas eve, on board a Pullman sleeping car, the last place in the world to look for the fat little man," remarked Hunter C. Rice, a business man of New York, at the Shoptonham.

"I shall always treasure in my memory the incidents of that night, and for the rest of my life I shall teach the little ones always to believe that Santa Claus is real."

"I was bound for my home in West Virginia to spend Christmas. At Baltimore there was brought aboard in the arms of a good doctor a little curly-headed boy just past 5. He was tenderly placed in a berth and put in charge of the conductor. The physician told us that the lad was going to his home at White Sulphur Springs for Christmas, after having spent several months in the hospital, where he had been treated for hip disease. His little leg was shriveled and helpless, his pretty face was pinched and pinched, and he was full of the Christmas spirit."

"A correspondent of a West Virginia paper boarded the train at Washington. He saw the little fellow's pale face peering out through the curtains, and to the newspaper man the boy confided that he was waiting for Santa Claus. The writer tried to soften the disappointment that he believed would come in the morning by telling the youngster that Santa Claus didn't visit sleeping cars on moving trains, but the doubtless when the boy got home he would find that Santa Claus had been there. The little fellow wouldn't have it, and insisted that his stocking be pinned on the outside of the curtains, and when that was done he turned over and peacefully went to sleep to dream of Kris Kringle."

"We got busy. Everybody on board that train became interested. A United States marine going home for the holidays offered a brand-new pair of government socks in place of the stocking. An inventory was made of the baggage of every man on board. A kindly-faced matron suggested that she had a trunkful of toys in the baggage car ahead, but it was impossible to find the trunk. The Washington correspondent dug down into his grip and pulled out a box of candy he was taking home to his mother. He placed it in the stocking. A New York drummer found a box of mints he hadn't opened. Into the stocking it went. There were no toys to be had, and the stores in the towns along the route were closed. But early in the morning a dining car was attached to the train, and a raid was made. Apples, oranges and grapes were obtained out of the larder and placed in the stocking."

"I was rather glad there were no women up when we reached White Sulphur, else there would have been tears. The little fellow, aroused from his slumber, peered his curly head out of the berth and, looking up at his stocking, he smiled."

"I told you Santa Claus wouldn't miss me."

"You should have seen the procession that followed the little fellow onto the platform at White Sulphur. I guess there wasn't a dry eye in the crowd. Even the porter was shading his eyes."

**IN MEMORIAM**

**IN MEMORY OF MRS. LOUISA FOUNTAIN.**

Mrs. Louisa Fountain, widow of the late Almon Fountain and one of the most beloved and best known women of Edgecombe county, died on Monday morning, December 22, 1913, at 8:45 o'clock after an illness of two weeks of apoplexy at her home on her plantation, Cedar Lake, near Leggett's at the age of sixty-five years.

She was the daughter of the late Richard Tillman Eagles and Penelope Eagles, and was born on December 14, 1848, at Eagles, the plantation of her father near old Sparta in Edgecombe county.

She was a young girl during the War Between the States and was a true daughter of the South, and helped to endure the vicissitudes and sufferings which were caused by the war, having had three brothers in the Southern cause wounded at Spottsylvania Courthouse in Virginia. At the point called the Horse Shoe, the effects of the wounds caused his death nine days later.

At the close of the war, in July 1870, she married Almon Fountain, a young Confederate soldier, who had served during the entire war in her brother's company, and they together set to work to help rebuild and mend the broken pieces in this beautiful Southland, and she lived to see the fruits of her labor and the South to come partially into her own.

She was the typical Southern woman whose delight was to entertain her friends and whose charity extended to all around her in need, both white and colored. She was indeed a neighbor to all, and was an earnest Christian worker, being a member of the Presbyterian church, Olive, near her home, and was a regular attendant at all services and felt it her duty to welcome everyone there and never grew too old to be a Sunday school scholar, she having attended Sunday school the Sunday before her last illness, and she was ever ready

# Selling Housekeeping Dry Goods

It is our intention to make this January most interesting to all housewives.

We have made great preparation for this January Housekeeping Dry Goods Sale, and it will repay every housekeeper many times over to come and see our Carpets, Rugs, Mattings, Linoleums, Blankets, Eider Down Quilts, Bed Comfortables, Counterpanes, Sheets and Pillow Cases, Linens, Curtains and Draperies, etc.

Everyone will be given the best attention.

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with a smile to speak words of cheer, fullness and to help uplift the fallen. She was a mother of a large family of eleven children nine of whom survive, six sons and three daughters to rise up call her blessed. Messrs. Charlie, Arthur and Mrs. Mary Lawrence, wife of Thomas Lawrence, of Leggett's, Benjamin and Lula at home, Mrs. Margaret Savage, wife of Frank Savage, of Tarboro; Robert of Fountain, N. C., Richard Fountain, recorder of Rocky Mount, and Walter Fountain of Rocky Mount. Also one sister, Miss Hilphia Eagles, of Crisp, and one brother, Thos. H. Eagles, of Wilson, S. C. She has left to her descendants the memory of many virtues. She was indeed a mother in Israel.

Tarboro, N. C.

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**ANCHOR TRUST CO.**

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L. E. COVINGTON, Vice-President.

**James A. Salter ARCHITECT.**

Commercial Bank Bldg., Raleigh, N. C. Call to see us when in town, or if you can not come, write and we will go to see you.

## MUTT AND JEFF THE MORNING AFTER NEW YEAR'S EVE



By "Bud Fisher"