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CANCER OF THE CHEEK (BUCCAL MUCOSA)

STUDY OF NINETY-NINE CASES WITH RESULTS OF
TREATMENT AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS

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During the five year period from 1925 to 1929, ninety-nine cases of carcinoma of the cheek the records of which are sufficiently complete to form a basis for this clinical study were observed in the clinic at Memorial Hospital. This series includes all of the cases of cancer of the cheek, in both the early and the hopelessly advanced stage, in which we had histologic proof of the presence of cancer, and in which there was subsequent observation for at least one month or until death. We excluded those cases in which the disease was not proved histologically, for instance, those in which, although the condition clinically appeared to be cancer, papilloma only was revealed on histologic examination. We also excluded the cases of those patients ("clinic shoppers") who made but one or two visits to the clinic and were then lost track of within one month, without receiving the proffered treatment. The reported end-results are based on the histories of patients observed for five years or longer. Since we have included the cases of hopelessly advanced disease (thirty-two, or 32 per cent) in which palliative treatment only was given, we offer this report as an index of the disease as it is seen at the time when the patients first apply for treatment. Twenty-four patients (24 per cent) had received unsuccessful treatment by surgical excision, cautery or irradiation previous to their application at the clinic. In the case of nine of these, local surgical excision of the primary lesion had been made.

ETIOLOGY

Carcinoma of the cheek (buccal mucosa) comprises 9.5 per cent of all of the intra-oral tumors (Pack and Le Fevre¹). In this group of

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1. Pack, G. T., and Le Fevre, R. G.: The Age and Sex Distribution and Incidence of Neoplastic Diseases at the Memorial Hospital, New York City, *J. Cancer Research* **14**:167, 1930.