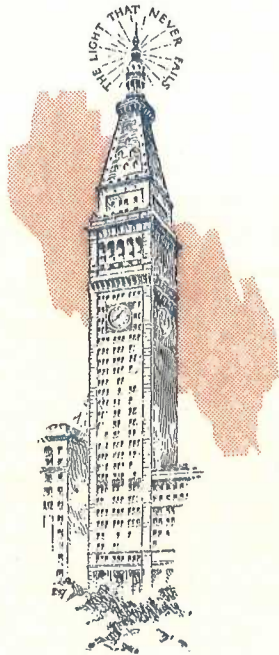


# *A Message of Hope*

**ABOUT CANCER**



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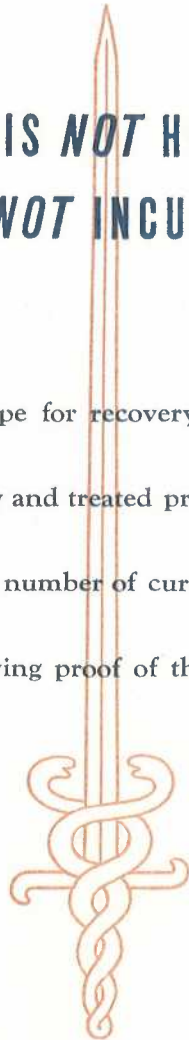
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**CANCER IS *NOT* HOPELESS  
... *NOT* INCURABLE**

There is real hope for recovery if the disease is detected promptly and treated properly. The constantly increasing number of cured cancer patients is a living proof of this fact.



*What is*  
**CANCER?**

**C**ANCER is a malignant growth which starts in one place in the body as a result of certain not yet understood changes that the body cells at that point undergo. These changed cells begin multiplying and take the place of the neighboring healthy cells which they destroy. A cancer once started keeps on growing, slowly or rapidly. Cells from the original growth may be carried by the lymph or blood to other parts of the body, where they lodge and set up secondary cancers. These secondary growths are called metastases.

Cancer is not caused by germs which enter the body from the outside. Therefore, the disease is *not contagious . . . not catching*.

**How Cancer May Be Cured**

The great hope for cancer patients lies in recognizing and treating the disease in its *early* stages. Treatment is more effective today than ever before because of

increased medical knowledge and skill in diagnostic methods, and in the use, singly or in combination, of the three weapons that can check or destroy or remove cancer:

1. X-RAYS    2. RADIUM    3. SURGERY

Thousands of men and women in this country today have been successfully treated for cancer by these methods.

The most important single step leading to a cure is up to *you* . . . the *first* step . . . going to a doctor for an examination if you notice any of the danger signals that may mean the beginning of cancer. Then it may be treated in its *early stages, before it has had time to spread!*

Remember that, as yet, cancer cannot be cured by any known internal or external medicines such as serums, salves, or ointments, or by special diets.

## The Common Forms of Cancer and Their Danger Signals

All the varieties of cancer and the signs and symptoms associated with each are too numerous to list here completely. However, the following are some of the more common forms:

1. Stomach Cancer—the most common form of cancer—usually is preceded by one or more of these warning symptoms:
  - Persistent lack of appetite.
  - Persistent indigestion not due to faulty habits of diet.
  - Pain after eating (a late symptom).
  - Loss of weight (a late symptom).

2. Rectal Cancer usually is painless at the outset. But you should beware of:

Periods marked by more frequent bowel movements (at times followed by periods of constipation).

Abdominal cramps and sensation of inadequate evacuation.

Pain and rectal bleeding.

Remember that rectal cancer is often confused with hemorrhoids (piles) and therefore it may not be recognized in its early stages. If you are troubled with hemorrhoids, have a thorough examination so the doctor may make sure that cancer also is not present.

3. Uterine Cancer, which is one of the leading causes of cancer deaths among women, generally gives warning in:

Increased or irregular discharges.

Return of flow after change of life.

4. Breast Cancer—mainly occurring in, though not limited to, women over 40—may be suspected upon the appearance of:

Painless lumps or other abnormalities of the breast.

Bleeding or discharge from the nipple.

5. Skin Cancer—the easiest of all to detect and often to cure—may develop from:

Moles (especially black moles), warts, scars, blemishes.

“Razor-blade” surgery or other home “doctoring” of moles and warts.

Growths that suddenly begin to change in either color, size, or texture.

Growths constantly exposed to irritation, and sores which stubbornly refuse to heal.

## What to Do

If you notice one or more of these signs or symptoms, there is just one thing you should do—and do right away: **SEE YOUR DOCTOR.**

None of these danger signals *surely* mean that you *have* cancer. But they do mean that something is wrong and that you *might* have it. So, report the symptoms to your doctor immediately. He can set your mind at ease if it isn't cancer. On the other hand, examination by a qualified, reputable doctor is the first step on the road to cure if it is cancer.

Today, hope of cure is greater than ever before. Diagnosis is more certain, can be made earlier, by X-rays, the fluoroscope, the cystoscope, the microscope, and such modern means as the flexible gastroscope . . . a telescopic instrument that "looks around corners" of the stomach.

A thorough physical examination made once a year by a doctor is often a safeguard against cancer. If you notice any suspicious symptoms during the interval between one physical examination and the next, do not delay seeing your doctor even though you may have been given a clean bill of health when last examined. If you have no family doctor, consult the local hospital or health department as to where to secure examination.

**REMEMBER** The cure of cancer rests on early diagnosis and prompt treatment by experienced physicians.

Cancer has so far been treated successfully *only* by the surgical removal of the growth, or its destruction by radium or X-rays.

For further information about cancer,  
write to the  
American Society for the Control of Cancer,  
350 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.,  
or to the cancer committee or other  
group in your community  
affiliated with it.