

CANCER INCREASING AMONG MEAT EATERS

Particularly Among the Foreign-Born Using Foods Derived from Diseased Animals.

ADAMS'S CHICAGO FIGURES

On the Other Hand, Italians and Chinese, Practically Vegetarians, Show the Lowest Mortality of All.

CHICAGO, Sept. 23.—Chicago scientists are deeply interested in the results of two years' exhaustive study of cancer in Chicago by Dr. G. Cooke Adams of London and formerly of Australia, just made public through the Department of Health. Dr. Adams has proved conclusively that diet is a most important factor in the increase of the disease and its death rate.

In the last seven years, of 58,835 deaths among the Chicago-born from all causes there were only 178 deaths due to cancer. In the same period there were 61,019 deaths from all causes among foreign-born inhabitants, (who comprise over one-third of the total population,) and 4,463 of these deaths were due to cancer.

Concerning his researches Dr. Adams says:

"My statistical investigations in Europe, Great Britain, and the United States fully corroborate my earlier Australian observations. The increase of cancer and its death rate in the United States, particularly among the foreign-born inhabitants, are alarming, the mortality of the foreign-born being far in excess of the death rate of the native-born, and contributing the greatest part toward the generally high mortality. The increase in cancer mortality may be demonstrated by a study of the vital statistics of any large American city, the tables of Chicago giving the following results:

"In Chicago, from 1856 to 1866 there was an increase in the death rate from cancer of 680 per cent., while from 1866 to 1905 the increase was 232 per cent. In 1856 but 1 in each 1,000 deaths was from cancer; in 1866 this had increased to 1 in each 164; in 1905 it was 1 in 23 deaths, while in 1906 1 death in every 21.8 was due to this disease.

"The same tables show plainly the terrible mortality among the foreign-born residents of Chicago, particularly among the Germans, Irish, Scandinavians, and Slavonians. The cancer death rate among the Irish and German residents of Chicago is the highest in the world, being nearly 300 per cent. higher than in their native countries. The Chicago mortality tables show that of 4 deaths among Germans over 40 years of age, 1 is from cancer. In Germany it is 1 in 12. Of the Irish dying in Chicago, over 40 years of age, 1 in every 6 dies from cancer, while the cancer death rate in Ireland at the same age is 1 in 15. Similarly, the Scandinavians, Slavonians, and other foreign-born, except the Italians and Chinese, show a far greater death rate from cancer in Chicago than in their own homes, the two last-named races maintaining the low mortality of their native lands.

"The cause of this greatly increased death rate among the foreign-born cannot be charged to climatic conditions, for I have found that the Chicago and Illinois born have about the lowest death rate from cancer of any people in the world, for many years the average being 1 death from cancer in every 400 deaths among these people, and but 1 cancer death in 72 among the native Chicagoans over 40 years of age.

"A study was made of the number of

deaths from cancer in the fifteen sanitary divisions of the City of Chicago, as well as in the public institutions, and especial attention was given to the relation to the population, nativity, occupation, sex, age, race, diet, and their sanitary, hygienic, social, and economic conditions, the idea being to shed some light upon the abnormally high death rate of some nationalities in Chicago, the low death rate of others, and the comparative immunity of Illinois and Chicago born persons, compared with the higher mortality of other American-born residents of Chicago.

"It was found that the Italians made their staple diet of macaroni and spaghetti, (their national dish;) that the Chinese adhered to their national diet of rice, while the nations showing higher mortality consumed large quantities of canned, preserved, dried, and pickled meats, sausages, &c., often eaten uncooked. While these preserved meat foods are eaten to a certain extent in their own countries, the higher wages of America permit indulgence in them to a greater extent, while the greater cost of fresh meat is an added inducement to the consumption of these articles.

"It was found also that the bulk of the fresh meat prepared at the plant of a slaughtering company, where stock condemned ante-mortem by Government, State, and city Inspectors is slaughtered, is eaten by the poor. About 87 per cent. of stock held for slaughter upon being condemned on ante-mortem inspection and after diseased organs and parts have been removed is finally passed upon and enters the market either as fresh meat or in the form of meat food products, and is largely consumed by the foreign poor. My investigations at the Chicago Stock Yards show that the majority of the stock condemned ante-mortem for tuberculosis, actinomycetosis, and cancer, as well as those principally used as "canners," are fed on wet malt or distillery slop.

"There cannot be the slightest question that the great increase in cancer among the foreign-born over the prevalence of that disease in their native countries is due to the increased consumption of animal foods, particularly those derived from diseased animals."