

February 2, 1935.

KOCH ANTITOXIN TREATMENT FOR CANCER.

Information assembled by H. W. Clark

1. During the past month I have made a very considerable investigation of this subject, my attention having been called to it by newspaper publicity given to a denial by Dr. John A. Hartwell, Director of the Academy of Medicine, that he had agreed to aid in having a demonstration of the Koch treatment made on a large number of cancer sufferers. The newspaper article referred to a Committee of well-known New York people as interested in securing an investigation of the Koch treatment by competent authorities of the medical profession, and, also to A. Fitz Roy Anderson of 134 East 65th Street as working independently of the Committee for the recognition of the treatment. I called on Mr. Anderson and was shown and given material purporting to show that this treatment has been used with success for several years. With the leads so obtained I pursued inquiries diligently in such directions as were immediately available. As a result I became entirely convinced of the merits of the treatment and of its extensive and successful use. The information I obtained was at first assembled in a memorandum for my own purposes. This memorandum is a revision made in order that my information may be made available to others interested in the subject.

2. In 1919 Dr. William F. Koch announced an antitoxin for cancer. It has been used by him and associates of his continuously since that time, chiefly, if not wholly, in Detroit. Since 1926 the use has been under the name of "Koch Cancer Foundation", now at 8181 East Jefferson Avenue, Detroit. The Foundation supplies the antitoxin to physicians requesting it. However, there appears to be only a scattering of physicians over the whole country who are using the treatment. Dr. Koch has published a volume of 300 pages on the subject of this treatment, entitled "Cancer and Its Allied Diseases", which contains many of his "case-histories". I have read the book and it is to my mind entirely convincing. It can be dismissed only by taking the position that the case-histories are pure fabrications or that diagnoses cited in the cases, largely based on microscopic examinations and many made by other physicians, were mistaken. I have talked to a number of people who know Dr. Koch personally and they all hold him in the highest esteem. It is impossible that his book is other than the work of a most sincere and honest man.

3. Dr. Koch's theory of cancer (stated in my own language) is that the malignant growth is not of itself the disease but a merely local manifestation of a causative toxin (poison) in the body; and that no surgical removal of the merely local manifestation and no treatment of it by radium or x-ray can result in a complete recovery, and none ever has,

because the toxin still remains to cause recurrences. I have been told by an eminent surgeon that he has never seen "radium cure anything", although he recommended its use to delay the recurrence. This treatment is an injection in the arm of a synthetic antitoxin which (again using lay-man language) normalizes the toxin and produces immunity. The cancerous growth is thereupon obsolete and is gradually absorbed into the body and new tissue is formed. In the great majority of cases only one injection is required. The treatment requires as a preliminary about three days of cleansing the system by enemas and abstaining from food and drink other than certain fruit juices and distilled water, and after the injection a rigid adherence to a restricted but abundant diet with only distilled water used for cooking and drinking. The time of recovery varies with the individual and with the case. Cures are said to have been completed in six weeks even in severe cases. I have been told that the Koch Foundation estimates that the completed recoveries in its cases are about 80 per cent of the cases treated, but this is only third-hand information. A most important result of the injection is that pain is eliminated at an early stage and so continues whether or not a cure is effected.

4. The medical profession generally is ignorant of the Koch treatment and inquiry of any medical society will elicit an answer to the effect that no evidence has ever been sub-

mitted that the treatment has any merit. Therefore any physician whose attention is called to the treatment either has already received this report from his medical society or on inquiry will receive it. This generally ends the matter for the physician since he cannot afford to risk the displeasure of his organization by using an unrecognized treatment. The rank and file of the profession of course cannot investigate new remedies and treatments but must depend upon the authorities and committees of their societies for such investigations. In 1919 and again in 1923 the Wayne County (Michigan) Medical Society, Detroit being in that county, appointed committees to investigate the Koch treatment. The first investigation was on the basis of seven desperate cases selected by the Committee and brought to a Detroit hospital. After about two weeks from the administration the patients were all withdrawn from the hospital and the committee closed its investigations and made an unfavorable report. The second investigation was on the basis of case-histories submitted to the committee by Dr. Koch. Each case was dismissed by the committee as proving nothing; in some the committee conclusion was that the original diagnosis of cancer was evidently wrong; in those in which the history showed any radium or x-ray treatments before the patient was sent to Dr. Koch the committee conclusion was that the recovery was evidently due to the earlier radium or x-ray treatment. I have read the literature of both sides

as to these investigations and I was unable to conclude that the adverse reports of the county medical society should influence any inquirer's views. Citing the Wayne County medical society investigations, the American Medical Association has prepared and given some publicity to a printed statement adverse to the Koch treatment. Again I do not feel that this publication should influence any inquirer's views. Dr. Hartwell's statement to the press to which I referred in paragraph 1 made the point that Dr. Koch must make his secret formula available to the medical profession. This is a sine qua non for any new remedy or treatment in medicine. I have seen statements by Dr. Koch that as early as 1919 he was trying to get some competent authority of the medical profession to receive a dedication of his formula. I have seen a very recent letter from him in which he states that he is willing to make a "complete declaration of the chemistry" if he is guaranteed proper facilities for its demonstration.

5. A. Fitz Roy Anderson, referred to in paragraph 1 as the original source of my information, has assembled a very extensive body of information about the use of the Koch treatment by various physicians in various parts of the country and is thoroughly convinced that the treatment has effected cures in a great many cases. Mr. Anderson has no other interest or motive in the matter than to do a public spirited service and promote the welfare of humanity. He is a gentleman

with the leisure and the means to pursue such a cause and in the past has been active in the promotion of other causes which he believed in the public interest.

6. The Committee referred to in paragraph 1 consists of H. Hardcastle Pennock, Chairman, Robert L. Bacon, Arthur Livermore, Sidney J. Smith, Mrs. Elisha Dyer Hubbard and Mrs. J. Sheldon Tilney. Its name is "Research Investigation Committee". Its office is in Mr. Pennock's offices at 50 East 42nd Street. Mrs. Carolina F. Hawkes is Secretary of the Committee. Its purpose is to promote research for a cure for cancer. It has interested itself in the first instance, as I understand, in the Koch treatment because all the members of the Committee have personal knowledge of one or more cures effected by the Koch treatment. Members of this group are winter visitors in Palm Beach. Many hopeless cancer patients go to Palm Beach to await death in as comfortable surroundings as possible. Members of the Committee have had personal knowledge of the recovery of some of these cases under the Koch treatment.

7. In my investigation I consulted three New York City doctors who are using the Koch treatment, these being the only New York doctors of whom Mr. Anderson knew in this connection. I omit their names because one of them strictly enjoined me not to broadcast his use of the treatment, and because I do not wish to contribute to any action by the medical societies

as to the others. Since my active investigation ended I have been informed of four other New York City doctors who have been using the treatment for a short time but I have not consulted them. The experience of the three doctors consulted is as follows:

(a) Doctor A, who happens to be a life-long friend of mine, we being born and raised in the same New England village, has used the treatment for several years. He used it first in the cases of five or six patients who were in extremis and they all died. He has used the treatment for some other patients in whose cases cancer was merely suspected and with apparently good results. He has more recently used the treatment in many cases of undoubted cancer but all within so recent a period that it is too soon to state results. He believes in its use and says that on his own experience alone he knows that the treatment has the effect of eliminating or mitigating pain.

(b) Dr. B has used the Koch treatment in a number of cases which he diagnosed as cancer. He says that it has effected eight complete cures in his cases. In others of his cases the patients died, but in those cases he says that the patients were so near death before the treatment was administered that they were hopeless. He thoroughly believes in the treatment. He first became acquainted with the Koch treatment when lecturing before some group of Indiana doctors. He learned that some of them were effecting cures of cancer, and on inquiring about the treatment found it was the Koch treatment.

He was sufficiently impressed by the information he obtained at that time to cause him to use the treatment in his own cases, with the results above stated.

(c) Dr. C is familiar with the Koch treatment and has visited the clinic of the Koch Cancer Foundation at Detroit. He has used the treatment in the cases of six of his own cancer patients. His experience with it has been limited to two years which he does not consider an adequate basis for any definite conclusions. In two of these cases the Koch treatment was used as a prophylactic measure following surgery. In another case it was used after his opening of the abdomen had disclosed a condition which he estimated would result in the patient's death in 8 months, which period expired last April, and the patient is still living. All the patients for whom Dr. C has used this treatment are still living.

8. Material furnished me by Mr. Anderson indicated that Doctor T. A. Klingensmith, of 214 First Street, Jeannette, Pennsylvania, has had the most extensive personal experience with the Koch treatment of any physician in private practice. In a letter which he wrote Mr. Anderson July 13, 1934, he said that he has used this treatment for about seven years and that cures were effected in about 80 per cent of the cases. He made an emphatic statement in this letter as to the value of the treatment in relieving or entirely eliminating pain. I quote "Previous to the administration of the antitoxin they (the patients) were in agony or were alleviating their pain

"by the use of some opiate, and these drugs were cut out and the pain disappeared." In a later letter to Mr. Anderson he again emphasized this result of the treatment and said: "a few days after the administration of the antitoxin there is little or no pain experienced by the patients; their minds are not clouded by the taking of opiates."

9. Concluding that the experience of Dr. Klingensmith, mentioned in paragraph 8, was indicated as the most worth while to follow up, I wrote him of my interest in the treatment and subsequently talked with him on the telephone twice at considerable length. Our conversation was to a considerable extent regarding details of the treatment which are not pertinent to the purpose of this memorandum. He told me that he has been using the treatment for cancer cases for about seven years and he estimated the number of patients so treated as between 75 and 80. He confirmed his statement to Mr. Anderson of eighty per cent of recoveries. He emphasizes the necessity of following religiously the instructions issued by the Koch Foundation as to the preparation of the patient and the care following the injection. About one-fifth of his patients have received a second injection and a very few a third injection. No one can talk with Dr. Klingensmith, even over the telephone, without being thoroughly convinced of his sincerity and his complete knowledge of this subject.

10. In order to fortify myself in relying on Dr. Klingensmith's information, I had an investigation of his standing made by a personal friend in Pittsburgh. Jeannette, Pennsylvania, is a town of about 15,000 people, located on the Pennsylvania Railroad main line about 25 miles east of Pittsburgh. My friend spent an afternoon in Jeannette and both telephoned and wrote me a full report of the result of his inquiries. His written report is about 16 pages of handwritten manuscript. The responses to his inquiries were most favorable and complimentary to Dr. Klingensmith. The medical directory gives Dr. K's age as 70. A Mrs. M, one of the witnesses interviewed, was a registered nurse prior to her marriage. She said that she had served for two years as nurse for Dr. K's cancer patients and described various cases she personally served for Dr. K as follows: (1) A case of cancer of the mouth and tongue. The condition of this patient was described by this witness as "awful", but patient was positively cured. (2) A case of cancer of the stomach cured two years ago. (3) A woman of 78 cured of cancer on the temple. (4) A case of cancer on the cheek bone, the bone being badly decayed, which was fully cured. (5) A case of cancer of the liver in which the treatment was too late, the cancer breaking into the bowel and a hemorrhage occurring which could not be stopped. (6) A patient suffering both from cancer on the breast and cancer of the liver, whose breast cancer was completely healed by the treatment but the liver cancer subsequently proved fatal.

(7) A woman patient with cancer of the uterus who was improved and appeared to be certain of recovery but, while still in a weakened condition from the treatment, scrubbed her porch, caught cold and died of pneumonia.

11. My friend also called on Dr. K himself. Dr. K said that in his many years of medical practice he had seen cancer treated surgically and by x-ray and by radium with so many failures that he became convinced these were not the right methods. He studied Dr. Koch's book on the treatment of cancer; it seemed to him reasonable and he became tremendously interested. Dr. K said that the treatment will allay the pain in every case even if it does not cure. He told my friend of a number of cases including some of those mentioned by Mrs. M. A notable one was the case of a 75 year old farmer who had a cancer of the mouth which was eating down into his neck. Dr. K had no hope whatever that the antitoxin would succeed in this case but it did and he recently saw this former patient just finishing the ploughing of a 9-acre field. Dr. K said that the antitoxin would not cure every case for many are too far advanced before its use, but he cited several cases of bed-ridden patients whom he had given the treatment merely to allay their pain without hope that it would prove timely who nevertheless recovered fully. My friend says that Dr. K talked intelligently and convincingly but not boastfully; that he is tremendously interested in the

subject of cancer and the antitoxin treatment and in talking on this subject his eyes occasionally light up with fire and enthusiasm. Finally, he reported Dr. K as "the kindly, fatherly type of physician that would be a trusted family doctor for years."

12. My Pittsburgh friend who made the investigation of Dr. K as above described submits the following story on the information of a valued friend and neighbor of himself and his wife, the subject of which was a cousin of said friend and neighbor. This subject four years ago was taken to a hospital for operation for intestinal cancer. On opening the subject the cancer was considered by the surgeons to be inoperable and the patient was sewed up and sent home to die. The patient heard of Dr. Koch's treatment and insisted on being taken to the Koch Foundation at Detroit to receive it. She goes about today leading an apparently normal life in every way but during the four years since her first treatment she has had two additional treatments, apparently as a precautionary measure.

13. Mr. Anderson exhibited to me recently a letter which he had just received from W. Gano Compere, who operates a sanitarium near Albuquerque. The letter states that the Koch antitoxin has been used there for five years, beginning in 1929; that 126 cases have been treated and that all but seventeen treatments have been successful. I have not had

time to follow up this lead.

14. Mr. Anderson's material includes information concerning the successful use of the Koch antitoxin in and about Huntington, West Virginia. "The Huntington Advertiser" of December 18, 1934, carries a story on this subject. It refers to W. J. Rodgers, of Huntington, and quotes him as saying that in 1930 he underwent an operation for cancer of the bladder, but eighteen months later the cancer recurred in the lower abdomen; that in November 1933 he became so seriously ill that he was confined to his bed, his heart being seriously impaired; that on March 11, 1934, when he was considered beyond hope, he was given the Koch antitoxin; that in six weeks he was sufficiently recovered to travel by automobile to Louisiana and is today enjoying the best health he has known for ten years. The newspaper article states that Rodgers appears strong and vigorous. The article cites also the case of William Turley, a local man who received the Koch treatment at the City Hospital in May 1934 at a time when the patient was supposed to be at the point of death. At that time his right eye, cheek and sinus bones and part of his nose and upper lip had been eaten away. Within thirty days after treatment the sore was healing by granulation. Although the cavity is not yet entirely filled up and hospital dressings are required, the patient has recently been walking from three to five miles daily and has regained his normal weight. This patient

is 78 years old. Mr. Anderson's material includes affidavits of the patient and attending physician in one of the above-mentioned Huntington cases -- the Rodgers case if my memory serves me correctly.

15. I have recently become acquainted with a Mrs. Y. who has been for two years a nurse on Dr. Klingensmith's cases. She was herself cured by the Koch treatment. She was operated on by a son-in-law doctor in Washington, D. C., a breast being removed. There was a recurrence and it was found that there were several other manifestations of cancer in other parts of the body. Her original cancer diagnosis was in Chicago, which was confirmed by the Washington doctor and by a Washington laboratory. She was given the Koch treatment by a woman doctor in Washington, now deceased, and completely recovered in a few months. That was five years ago. Ever since the treatment she has been in perfect health and actively employed as a dietitian and nurse.

16. The first physician in the east to take up the Koch treatment was Dr. A. W. Hoyt of New Rochelle. He had the personal incentive that he believed himself an hereditary cancer case. He went to Detroit in 1919 very soon after the Koch treatment was first announced. After familiarizing himself with the treatment, he used it in his practice until his death by accident in 1927. His former secretary says he treated more than 60 cases with the Koch treatment and that,

although all of them were "terminal" cases, he had about 23 per cent of complete recoveries.

17. No one can expect to secure by means of this memorandum the approval of his physician of the use of the Koch antitoxin. If this memorandum were shown to any physician he would undoubtedly say that it does not contain any evidence from a medical standpoint that any case of cancer has ever been cured by the Koch treatment. I grant that it contains no evidence from a legal standpoint for it is all "hearsay" or "second-hand" statements. In fact the authorities of the medical societies would not accept the first-hand statements of, for example, Dr. Klingensmith as to his experience; they would not credit him or any other physician with the ability to diagnose correctly a case of cancer. The foregoing is no exaggeration. I have seen a letter written within the past few days by the President of the American Society for the Control of Cancer stating as the essential conditions of any consideration of the Koch treatment not only that the formula must be dedicated to the profession but also that it must be "demonstrated on animals". This I assume reflects the attitude I have stated that no information, however, first-hand, as to actual experiences of physicians with this treatment will be given any credit. In all human activities other than medicine trust and confidence in the

statements of reputable people are largely the basis of action. The information I have gathered about this antitoxin, second-hand though much of it is and wholly inadequate to impress the medical authorities, is sufficient in my judgment to warrant my reliance upon it and I have accordingly acted on it.

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