

There are many examples that could be given from the splendid institutions in the country and in other parts of the world where greatest advances have been made. The word "cancer" does not apply to a single disease. It includes many different diseases, which may be unrelated, all of which are called cancer, so we may have to answer your question instance by instance as we record success.

Mr. ROGERS. I think that is encouraging, and I think it is well for us to spread on the record some of these examples, so where you have a technique that is successful, this can be spread quickly through a regional medical program—at least that is the theory—that it can get to the local doctors and hospitals. And although we may not have the necessary treatment there, it can be arranged for and the treatment prescribed.

Dr. FARBER. We hope these regional programs will provide for the community hospital the expertise and the equipment which will take care of the vast majority of patients with cancer, leaving for the centers the new problems which require far greater outlay in equipment and manpower.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you.

Are there any questions?

Mr. KYROS. I want to join with you in welcoming Dr. Farber here.

Mr. NELSEN. I was interested in your statement that many patients have gone as long as 13 years with no evidence of recurrence.

Is there any specific number of years that the medical profession assumes to be past the danger point in radiation treatment of a tumor?

Dr. FARBER. This varies from tumor to tumor.

In the case of the kidney tumor I mentioned, I have experience for more than 40 years with this kind of tumor. If there is no recurrence or evidence of tumor 2 years after initiation of therapy, we may assume with a high degree of certainty that the patient will remain in good health. In the case of other tumors, cancer of the breast, for example, although most patients will remain well if they have been well for 10 years, all of us—Dr. Carter, too, I am sure—have seen patients who have had recurrences 18 to 20 years later.

So we must give a different answer for each kind of tumor.

Mr. NELSEN. I had in mind a case that I am well aware of, that happens to be my son who had a brain tumor. It is now 5 years since the radiation treatment was given, and he has been in very good health since this operation was performed.

I am always watching, of course. This was 5 years ago, and it would seem he is in very good health at this time.

Dr. FARBER. I am sorry to learn you have this personal experience, Mr. Nelsen. I would say the story you give is encouraging. If there is no evidence of tumor after 5 years, this looks very hopeful.

Mr. ROGERS. Dr. Carter?

Mr. CARTER. I want to say thank you for an interesting and informative—and I started to say "persuasive" presentation, but instead of that, I am going to say that so far as I am concerned, I am a believer and am fully persuaded in what you say.

Thank you.

Dr. FARBER. Thank you very much, Dr. Carter.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Doctor, I have one statement.