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*Kindly address all communications to The Canada Lancet and
Practitioner, Sleepy Hollow Building, Toronto, Canada*

Original Contribution

PROGRESS IN CANCER RESEARCH

T. J. GLOVER, M.B., Toronto

As a result of recent bacteriological research, I believe that cancer is a typically infective disease just as are leprosy, tuberculosis and syphilis. The evidence resulting from the investigations of others who have lately made a close study of the bacteriology of cancer points to this same conclusion. These investigations placing cancer in the category of the infectious diseases should mark a significant and hopeful advance in the study of the disease by the focusing of research on its prevention and cure.

CANCER RESEARCH IN THE PRESENT CENTURY

Before describing the method of isolating and culturing the cancer organism, it might be well to say something about cancer research in general, from the beginning of the present century. It has been said that the main difference between the earlier researches and those of the present century consists in the fact, that while formerly the chief dependence was placed on observation, subsequently there has been added experimentation on a large scale. In the following account a summary of some of the chief investigations will be given and comments made upon them in the light of what I believe to be the discovery of the specific microorganism of cancer.

TUMOR TRANSPLANTATION EXPERIMENTS

The successful transplantation of malignant tumors from one animal to another of the same species by Loeb, Jensen and others at the beginning of the present century marked the first important advance in experimental cancer research. While this work did not bring us any closer to the etiology of cancer, nor tell us anything about the changes that occur in the parent cell before it becomes malignant, it did teach us that the stroma introduced with rat and mouse carcinoma and sarcoma into other rats and mice is replaced by the stroma of the new host and that it is only the inoculated malignant cells which survive. It also taught that some of the experimental animals offer a high degree of resis-

