

## TREATMENT OF CANCER BY LEAD.

SIR,—In your issue of January 12th (p. 82) Mr. J. Basi. Hume ends his letter with the following startling statement: "I am still of the opinion that the treatment of cancer by lead in its present form is wholly unjustifiable, if on humanitarian grounds alone."

I do not question that Mr. Hume was unable to help his patients with the preparation he used, but I do question his right to stigmatize the practice and discredit the work of others by so foolish a general statement. Others are able to help the unfortunate inoperable cases of cancer by the use of lead preparations. Why cannot Mr. Hume simply say that he was unable to do so? Instead he accuses me, and others, of unprofessional conduct; inasmuch as we continue to use a "wholly unjustifiable" remedy.

He states that his treatment converted some of his patients into physical wrecks; again I do not doubt him. But if he will come to the Bristol Royal Infirmary any Friday about 11 a.m. he will see about thirty patients with advanced and inoperable cancer, most of whom are doing very well on a lead treatment. He will find few, if any, "physical wrecks," except those just starting the treatment, and among the cases he will see:

Case W. Carcinoma of the breast, treated for fourteen months, the patient having received 0.7 gram lead metal. There has been much gain of weight and loss of symptoms; it is doubtful whether there is any cancer remaining.

Case M. Carcinoma of the prostate, treated for fifteen months. The fistula remains closed, and the patient has gained much weight, the only trouble being absence of control of the sphincter. He has received 1.2 grams of this "unjustifiable remedy."

Case D. Epithelioma of the tongue. The patient has been treated for a year, and has received 0.8 gram metal lead; is quite well, and no evidence of growth can be found.

Case Cx. Recurrent epithelioma of the lip after two operations. The patient has gained weight, lost symptoms, and appears to have been freed from his masses of cancer; he has received 0.6 gram metal lead.

Case C. Large sarcoma of ileum. The patient, who was unable to walk owing to paralysis and anaesthesia of the leg, has been treated for about a year. She is now very well and can walk several miles without any support.

Case E. Carcinoma of the rectum. The patient has been treated for ten months, and is now able to work again; has received 0.9 gram metal lead.

Case S. Rapidly growing ovarian carcinoma, with recurrence in operation scar, and ascites. The patient has been treated for seven months, and received 0.5 gram metal lead; she is now able to do her work.

These are a few instances taken at random from the patients who have received the largest amounts of this metal. Mr. Hume will see more cases than these, and can learn of other patients who, though now dead, yet proved that with this metal we have a hopeful beginning of a new system of treatment.