

Rene Caisse Series

Rene Caisse's own story on Essiac as a cancer cure

Rene's struggle to have Essiac accepted is over

(Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles on Rene Caisse, Bracebridge's cancer cure nurse, and her struggle to have Essiac recognized as a legitimate form of treatment.)

by Ted Britton

It has been almost 12 years since Bracebridge's Rene Caisse passed away. Nurse Caisse and her controversial cancer cure, Essiac, continue to attract interest all over North America.

Nurse Caisse, who suffered a broken leg in a fall at her Hiram Street home, never recovered, dying about five weeks later at South Muskoka Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, December 26, 1978.

At the time of her death, Rene Caisse was in her 91st year and had reached the summit of her professional career as the developer of Essiac (Caisse spelled backwards), a herbal tea said by many to be a positive benefit in the treatment of cancer.

Although married briefly to Charles McGaughey, a North Bay lawyer who was one of the hundreds who benefited from taking Essiac, Nurse Caisse used her maiden name most of her life. Rene was one of eight girls in a family of 11 children and was the third daughter born to Joseph and Friselde Caisse.

The Caisses moved to Bracebridge from Peterborough in the late 1800s, before there was even a railway into the Muskoka district. Joseph, a tobacconist, died when he was 60 years old, but Friselde, a seamstress and milliner, lived until she was 90.

Indeed, Friselde Caisse received Essiac treatments in her 72nd year, after it was found that she had cancer of the liver. Dr. McGibbon, who Rene always said was opposed to her work, challenged her to do something about her mother's condition. After 10 days of treatment Friselde began to recover and, in fact, lived another 18 years.

Dominated Her Life

Rene's entire life was dedicated to the nursing profession and it was during the early years of her career that she came upon the cancer treatment which was to dominate the rest of her life.

It was in 1922 in Haileybury, Ontario, that Rene first learned of the herbal tea which she believed could cure cancer. An elderly woman who had cured herself of breast cancer years earlier gave Rene the recipe for a herbal remedy used by Indians.

Over the years which followed, Rene refined the recipe, experimented with mice and subsequently used the finished product to treat people suffering from cancer.

Literally hundreds received Essiac at Nurse Caisse's Bracebridge clinic (now Lee, Roche & Kelly's legal office) during the 1930s and

in the late 1930s there was considerable public pressure to have Essiac recognized by the medical profession as a cancer cure.

Never Accepted

The provincial government's Cancer Commission was formed in 1938 and in 1939 it released a report which recognized only limited benefits from using Essiac in the treatment of cancer. The Commission refused to acknowledge Essiac as a cancer cure and demanded to know the ingredients as a prerequisite for allowing the herbal tea to be tested further.

Respirin Has It

Nurse Caisse refused to release her formula for Essiac and continued to do so until she handed it over to the Respirin Corporation early in 1977. Throughout her long struggle with the Cancer Society and the medical profession in general, Nurse Caisse insisted that if she were to hand over her formula to the medical establishment, her cancer treatment would be shelved forever.

In tests conducted during 1977, two Ontario doctors concluded that Essiac was almost totally useless in treating 40 patients with various forms of terminal cancer. Nurse Caisse dismissed the tests as just one more attempt by the medical profession to discredit her and subsequently handed her formula over to the Respirin Corporation, controlled by uranium mining magnate Stephen Roman of Toronto.

Respirin agreed to pay Nurse Caisse a weekly sum of \$250 during the testing period, and a share in any profits should the treatment ever be placed on the market.

In comparison to amounts of money offered for her formula over the last 62 years, including one offer of \$1 million, the Respirin payment was not all that generous. Nevertheless, Nurse Caisse believed that the time had come to hand her formula over to somebody and she clearly believed Respirin had the ability to get Essiac approved as a cancer treatment.

This series continues next week in Rene Caisse's **own words**, as she describes her struggle to have Essiac accepted by the medical profession.

Rene Caisse's own story on Essiac as a cancer cure

"Love and respect of fellow man meant more than riches"

by Ted Britton

This week we begin a series of articles in which Bracebridge's Rene Caisse tells her own story about her struggle to have Essiac recognized as a cancer treatment.

What follows are Rene's own views on the merits of Essiac and the consistent opposition she faced from various segments of society. The words are all Rene's and are derived largely from her own writings and private interviews.

Much of what follows relates to the 1930s, which must be regarded as the major period in Nurse Caisse's long career.

In many ways more recent events have been little more than a repeat of the events of 40 years ago. The only significant differences are the extent to which Rene's story has become worldwide over the recent years and, of course, the final transfer of the formula for Essiac to the Respirin Corporation. Otherwise, the events of the 1930s are surprisingly similar to those of the 1970s.

Rene always felt very strongly that certain vested interests were opposed to her work and this comes across repeatedly in the articles which follow. Whether or not a conspiracy of sorts has worked against Essiac and other possible cancer cures remains to be proven in fact, but Nurse Caisse certainly felt the cards were always stacked against her.

Indeed, she believed that life could be made very difficult for anyone who suggested that there might be a simple, safe cure for cancer. Certainly, if one reads Rene's account of what she went through in trying to have Essiac recognized, it is at least understandable that she felt there were very powerful and influential forces working against her.

In the weeks which follow, Rene's story in her own words will be printed without editorial comment or changes.

Although Rene is no longer with us, this series will serve to keep her memory alive and provide a written record of her perceptions of the whole Essiac controversy. In this way, at least the people of Rene Caisse's hometown will know what she thought of the single issue which dominated most of her adult life.

Ted Britton, Editor

Part I

I will try to relate a little about my background, in order that you may know the real me.

My forbears came to this country from France in the 1700s and settled in Quebec at the town of St. Agathe. The Caisse side of the family were from the suburbs of Paris.

Their crest was the (Dragon) of which they were very proud. My mother's forbears were farmers. They settled in Quebec, near La Prairie, on a farm. In later years, they all moved to Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, where my father met my mother who was a seamstress.

Father and Mother fell in love and were married in Peterborough, then they moved to the village of Bracebridge, before the railway moved into the district; they came by boat from the end of the railway. They both worked hard, and raised a large family, of which I was one; eight girls and three boys. We were brought up in the love and fear of God. We were taught to love one another, which we did, and do yet.

Mother used to playfully say that she would trade her eight girls for one boy, but we knew how much she loved us, and how proud she was of her family. Father built two stores, one for himself and my older brother, and one for my two older sisters who had become milliners.

Father died at the age of 60. Mother lived to see her 90th birthday. Mother was beloved by all (with all of her large family, she could always find time to lend a helping hand). Her church work earned for her a picture window which stands in her name at St. Joseph's Church, Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada.

Her work for the Red Cross during the World Wars, won her an Honourary Membership in the Red Cross. She was President of the Women's Institute for years, her dear hands were never idle. The Bracebridge Gazette printed this in its paper on her 90th birthday: "To be 90 years on Saturday; to have raised 11 children, to have 16 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild, is the distinctive record of Mrs. Friselde Caisse.

And there is the loving record: -- her children are a credit to her and until this past year, when life has slowed her activities, she has ever been one with them. Not likely that Mrs. Caisse concerned herself and 'Equal Rights', she accepted her very 'Superior Rights', and now we can congratulate her with this little bit of rhyme tailored for the occasion:

How fine to be ninety!
To look back through the years,
To see sun, to see frolic,
To see work, and some tears,
To look into the future
Without haste, without fear
May your days be the sweetest
of the 'Sweet' of the years."

These are the kind of people that I belonged to, my home was a happy and a Christian home, where the love and respect of our fellow man meant more to us than riches.

That is why I did not make a charge for "Essiac Treatments", and consequently was not in a position to fight in the courts for my rights. So, when the College of Physicians & Surgeons sent their police to threaten me many times, with arrest and jail, I gave up the unequal battle, and stopped treating cancer patients.

Now, like the late Grandma Moses, I paint pictures, many, many oil paintings to try to forget that which I know I can never forget, that I know the cure for Cancer, that I can never give it to the world that needs it so badly.

Whomever I gave it to, would be subjected to the same kind of Hell that I have been subjected to. Even though I gave it to the greatest scientist, he would be powerless and would be discredited, if he had the courage of his convictions.

Rene Caisse's own story: Part II

"Cancer Control Society" always opposed her

(Editor's Note: This is the second part in a series in which the late Rene Caisse, Bracebridge's "Cancer Cure Nurse", described her struggle to have Essiac accepted by the medical establishment. What follows is in Rene Caisse's own words.)

I have been asked many times why I did not write the story of my battle, over the past thirty years, with the "Powers that Be" in the medical world over my "Essiac Treatment for Cancer". One reason is that I am not a writer, another reason is that the "Cancer Control Society" in my opinion, is the richest and most powerful organization in the world. More powerful than any government, and are answerable to no law of any country. They have their own police, they set up their own courts of law to deal with anyone who is daring enough to have the courage of his convictions, and tries to evolve anything that is beneficial in the treatment of cancer, which is in my opinion their monopoly.

I believe that they also control the press, at any rate it is not healthy for any paper to print anything favourable about a "Cure for Cancer".

You know that when a cure for cancer is accepted, it will revolutionize the present-day method of treatment, and you may be sure the Cancer Control Commission will never allow that to happen. They would also lose control of all the monies given them so freely for cancer research. This, in my opinion, they will never allow to happen, even though they have had so much money for research, they have not in 50 years been able to offer the world even a hope of a real cure for this most dreaded of diseases.

Statistics show that in the four years of the last war, the United States of America lost approximately 284,000 men and in the same four years, the United States of America lost approximately 672,000 of their population from cancer.

Still, nobody did a thing about it, but give, and give, and give more money to the Cancer Society. Any other effort that took this long to develop something at least promising, would be considered not worth supporting. But the public are only told what the Cancer Society wants it to be told, and the gullible public accept anything they are told.

Radiation causes cancer, and this is the only thing the medical world has to offer as a beneficial treatment for cancer. It is my opinion that it might destroy a growth, but it eventually kills the patient. Two gentlemen came to Canada from New York to find out first-hand about my work on cancer patients. I told them all I could about it, but they wanted to talk to the doctors and get their opinions, but were politely told "that it was not healthy for any doctor to talk about or know anything in favour of the Essiac treatment". Though they had all in past years given diagnosis to patients coming to me for "Essiac Treatments" for cancer, and had seen these patients recover, they **dare not** express a favourable opinion of the treatment, even though they have seen these same patients living and well for many years after they had been given

at most, a few months to live.

Rather than admit that "Essiac" was beneficial, they would admit to making mistaken diagnosis.

The Cancer Society demanded pathological diagnosis, and when I presented patients cured, who had the report of cancer from our government pathologist, the head doctor of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. Noble, got up and said before the Cancer Commission "that even the pathologist could be wrong," and, he was speaking of their own pathologist.

Then every once in a while, I would have the medical policeman visit me and threaten me with arrest, if I continued to treat cancer patients, so I decided to give up the work that was doing so much for suffering humanity. One person cannot fight this kind of opposition. I was, and am, sincere in wanting to help cancer sufferers, and I did just that for over 45 years.

People still write, phone, or come to my home begging for the treatment because they know someone who I cured years ago, who is still living and well, but I have to turn them away or be taken into court and, if I give the medication out for self administration, there is a seven year penitentiary sentence facing anyone who gives out anything to help a cancer patient. So it is my opinion that the Cancer Control Commission will continue to take the public's and our government's monies, but will never admit a cure for cancer.

In spite of everything that has been said to the contrary, I have always been, and am still, willing to turn over my formula to the medical association any time that they will assure me that it will be used to help suffering humanity, and that it will not be shelved in favour of present-day methods of treatments; after the hearing of my case before the Cancer Commission of Ontario, they know that it has merit.

Part III next week.

"Cancer follows the line of least resistance

(**Editor's Note:** This is the third part in a series in which the late Rene Caisse, Bracebridge's "Cancer Cure Nurse", described her struggle to have Essiac accepted by the medical establishment. What follows is in Rene Caisse's own words.)

Scientists have discovered in the tombs of Pharaohs that cancer has plagued mankind for thousands of years. Millions have been spent and are being spent yearly in treatment and research work by our greatest medical specialists to find the remedy to crush out its existence. Today the only remedies in general practice and recognized by the medical profession, as the result of the above efforts, are surgery, radium and deep x-ray therapy. The disease however, has spread, and in spite of health measures and publicity to point its cause in early treatment, it has steadily increased, until now it has become the second greatest cause of death in the

world today.

Statistics show that the alarming increase of this dreaded menace is such that it is only a matter of time when, in the near future, unless a breakthrough is found, it will be first on the mortality list. It is quite apparent therefore that surgery, radium and deep x-ray are not the answers. It does seem that ultimate success does not lie in this direction. In fact, in this day of radioactive fallout, they have found that radium radiation is causing cancer instead of curing it. True, cancer taken in the early stages is being treated more or less successfully in some cases by these remedies, and a vast organized campaign is being waged to bring the knowledge of this fact into every home in the land. "See your doctor for the check-up with a cheque" is their slogan. "See your doctor immediately if you have any reason to suspect that you have the disease", is what they say. Unfortunately, there are very few physicians who can diagnose cancer, or very few symptoms to warn the individual or the doctor, in the majority of cases. Especially in many internal afflictions, there are few, if any, noticeable symptoms and in the majority of these cases, the disease is too well established or rooted before the doctor or his patient even suspect its presence.

Cancer generally follows the line of least resistance and does not cause pain or even inconvenience in its early stages, until it has invaded an organ or nerve centre. It may be slow in development and in such cases is most deceptive and difficult to discover or feel. It may develop rapidly and make itself felt early, when it can be fairly easily diagnosed and treated. A slow-growing cancer may not bother a person for years -- until it affects a vital organ. In its rapid growth, however, a few months of progress may make it too late for the surgeon's knife and then deep x-ray therapy may only scatter it to other parts; while radium drives it in, instead of out, and burns the surrounding tissue. I believe that radium, used in too heavy doses, is the prolific cause of further cancer in the destroyed burnt tissue.

Once the cancer gets into the glands to any extent, medical science accepts defeat. In many cases, infected internal glands cannot be treated by any of the above mentioned methods. The same applies to all vital organs. If the affected part can, in its infancy, be cut out by surgery before the malignancy starts shooting out its fine spider-web-like tentacles, a cure can, and is, sometimes effected. Once, however, the cancer becomes active and starts to travel to any extent, as it does along the line of least resistance, following its insidious relentless course, any destructive agency applied to the human body can only do more harm.

The shock to the system may slow up its activity and you can stop its course for a time, but the shock must, of necessity, have a more deleterious effect on the human body. The body, in its weakened condition, is less able to resist the subsequent ravages and the more deeply penetrating action of this dreadful scourge,

which soon makes itself felt in rapid loss of weight and inevitable torture and gradual starvation.

It is reasonable to conclude that no destructive agent can be successfully applied to eradicate a cancerous growth, which has more power in its wildly-growing cells in a living organism and their destructive ability, than the resistant ability of any organ in the human body. The malignancy is born of some freak of nature which has reversed the process of renewing wasting tissue and building up new healthy cells.

Part IV next week.

Rene Caisse's own story: Part IV

"Cancer is hereditary -- in some cases"

(Editor's Note: This is the fourth part in a series in which the late Rene Caisse, Bracebridge's "Cancer Cure Nurse", described her struggle to have Essiac accepted by the medical establishment. What follows is in Rene Caisse's own words.)

Malignant cells form and feed upon the healthy ones. I believe that there is an interchange of substances between the malignant cells and the healthy cells of the body; malignant cells absorbing from the healthy cells that which is required for its growth and development, while they throw off into the human body something which emaciates and destroys it. In this dreadful growth, the healthy tissue is destroyed until finally a living destructive organ dominates and spreads its evil shape without resistance.

The Cancer Research Foundation once announced that they were giving two doctors in Toronto a grant of \$226,503 to let them prove that viruses cause cancer. The virus theory was brought out by two scientific doctors from Liverpool, years ago, and these doctors were brought over to America to prove their theory, and were discredited because they were not able to reproduce the same results here that they had obtained in their own laboratories.

I do not believe that cancer is caused by viruses, but I can readily believe that a malignant mass can create viruses and that is where the interchange of substances between the malignant cells and the healthy cells takes place. The malignant cells take from the healthy cells, and in the exchange throw off viruses into the healthy cells in order to weaken and destroy them. I feel sure that if viruses are discovered, it will be in this area.

As for cancer being hereditary, my experience with many thousands of patients tells me that it is -- in some cases. I do not mean that one inherits the actual growth, but that one can inherit a pre-disposition to the disease and any destruction of cells in these people will set up a malignant growth. However, at the present time, there are babies being born with malignancy, of parents who have no history of cancer at all. This, I believe, is caused by radioactive fallout.

The Cancer Society has been in existence for over 50 years and everyone donates to their support, hoping each year that they will find something beneficial in the treatment of this dread disease, which is claiming so many of our loved ones, but to date they know not the cause, nor the cure. I have in my possession, an old pocket encyclopedia which was written in 1901, edited by Dr. George M. Gould and Dr. Walter L. Pyle of Philadelphia (former editors of International Medical Magazine), in which they define "CANCER" --

(Carcinoma) thus: and I quote: "A malignant tumor characterized by a network of connecting tissue. The areola of which are filled with cell masses resembling epithelial cells. Recent observation seems to point to its micro-organismal origin and ineffectious nature. Local carcinoma are described under a different heading." Unquote.

I doubt whether the present-day scientists could tell you anything more about cancer, after all these years of research, than this. An examination of the value of medical treatments, especially the obsession that destructive treatment by surgery, radiation and nitrogen mustard-like drugs is the only treatment worthwhile, combined with a willingness to investigate, could lead to the eventual cure of cancer. Such a cure will probably be obtained after the discovery of some biochemical variation between the malignant cells and the healthy ones.

It has been found in post-mortems that individuals have had cancer during their lives without knowing of its existence and the cancer had increased to the extent that all that remained was the evidence that destructive work had, at one time, been done and stopped. Nature had either supplied the body with the resistance or, more probably, the human system ceased to supply the malignant cells with the material vital to its existence. The human body cannot stand the havoc and destruction caused by any external irritating or lethal agent such as radiation, which is strong enough to destroy a living cancer, and must consequently destroy the living tissue, including the healthy tissue.

My treatment is non-toxic herbs, given by hypodermic injections into the muscle. The treatment goes to the seat of the trouble no matter where it is, whether internally or on the surface, and gives to the healthy cells the strength to resist the demands of the malignant cells, for the substance upon which it thrives, thus causing a recession of the malignant cells from the healthy cells, which have become stronger. "ESSIAC" treatment consists of an intermuscular injection, followed by medication given orally to purify the blood and carry off any infection thrown off by the destruction of the malignant cells. Both of these medications are made from non-toxic herbs.

Part V next week.

Rene Caisse's own story: Part V

Dr. Banting believed Essiac had positive results

(Editor's Note: This is the fifth part in a series in which the late Rene Caisse, Bracebridge's "Cancer Cure Nurse", described her struggle to have Essiac accepted by the medical establishment. What follows is in Rene Caisse's own words.)

I was Head Nurse at the Sisters of Providence Hospital in a northern Ontario town when I saw an elderly lady being bathed by one of my nurses and noticed that one breast was just a mass of scar tissue, so I asked about it.

This lady told me that years before, she had come out from England into the wilds of Northern Ontario to join her husband, who was prospecting out there. She developed cancer and she said an Indian told her to make a tea out of certain herbs and drink it.

She did this for over a year and the breast healed and although she was nearly 80 years of age, had never had a recurrence. I was very interested and wrote down the names of the herbs she had used.

Knowing that at that time, doctors threw up their hands when cancer was discovered in a patient, my thought was that if I should ever develop cancer, I would use it.

A year later, I was visiting an aged retired doctor whom I knew well and we were walking in his garden, when he took his cane and lifted a weed and said to me: "Nurse Caisse, if the people would use or take this, there would be little or no cancer in the world." I later discovered that this was one of the herbs Mrs. M. had told me about.

Some time later I got word that my mother's only sister had been operated on in Brockville and the doctors had found that she had cancer of the stomach, with a liver involvement.

They gave her at the most -- six months to live. I hastened to her and her doctor, Dr. R.O. Fisher of Toronto, whom I knew well (having nursed patients for him many times) was there, so I told him about the herb tea and asked his permission to try it under his observation.

He gave me his consent and was so impressed with the results that he gave me other hopeless cases to treat for him. (Incidentally, my aunt lived for 21 years after my treatment.)

Other doctors, hearing about me from Dr. Fisher, asked me to treat patients for them, after everything medical science had to offer, had been used and failed.

They too, were impressed with the results, so much so, that they got together and had me treat an old man whose face was eaten away and he was bleeding so badly that they said he could not last more than ten days. My treatment stopped the bleeding and the face healed and he lived for six months.

On the strength of what those doctors saw with their own eyes, eight of them signed a petition to the Department of National Health and Welfare at Ottawa, asking that I be given facilities to do independent research of my discovery.

Their petition, dated at Toronto on October 27, 1926, reads as follows:

To whom it may concern:

We, the undersigned, believe that the "treatment for cancer" given by Nurse R.M. Caisse, can do no harm and that it relieves pain, will reduce the enlargement, and will prolong life in hopeless cases.

To the best of our knowledge, she has not been given a case to treat until everything in medical and surgical science has been tried without effect and even then she was able to show remarkably beneficial results on those cases at that late stage.

We would be interested to see her given an opportunity to prove her work in a large way.

To the best of our knowledge she has treated all cases free of any charge and has been carrying on this work over the period of the past two years.

Signed: R.N. Fisher (LRCP MRCP), R.A. Blye (MB), E.T. Hoidge (MB LRCP MRCP), Chas. H. Hair (MDCM), S. Moore (MDCM), H.T. Williams (MD), J.C. Robert (MB), J.A. McInnis (MD).

In the meantime, Dr. Fisher had shown me how, by elimination of the protein content, it could be given by injection.

It took about two years to find out just what ingredients could be given hypodermically without a reaction, and by elimination, we found the ingredients that directly reduced the growth of cancer. However, I found that the other ingredients which could not be injected, were necessary to the treatment; in order to carry off the destroyed tissue and infections thrown off by the malignancy, so by giving the injection to destroy the mass of malignant cells and giving the medicine orally, to purify the blood, I was able to get the best results.

The Department of Health and Welfare, after receiving the petition signed by the doctors, sent two doctors from Ottawa to have me arrested, but when they found that I was working with nine of the most eminent doctors in Toronto and heard their opinions, they did not arrest me -- in fact, one of them (Dr. W.C. Arnold), became so interested that he arranged to have me work on mice at the Christie Street Hospital Laboratories with Dr. Norich and Dr. Locheed.

These mice were inoculated with Rous Sarcoma. I kept these mice alive for 52 days, which was longer than anyone else had been able to do.

Later I did a series of tests with two other doctors and kept these mice alive for 72 days. Then I made an appointment with Dr. Frederick Banting (of Insulin fame). After reading my case notes, he examined the pictures of the man with the face cancer and said, "Miss Caisse, I will not say you have a cure for cancer, but you have more evidence of a beneficial treatment for cancer than anyone in the world."

He advised me to make application to the university of Toronto for

facilities to do deeper research; he even offered to share his laboratory in the Banting Institute with me and to work with me. However, in making application to the University, I had to give them my formula. Thereby they would have my formula and could refuse my application. That is when I decided to prove it on its merit, without assistance if necessary and it was necessary. Dr. F.G. Banting approved my decision.

Part VI next week.

Rene Caisse's own story: Part VI

Dr. Bastedo and Bracebridge believed in Essiac

(Editor's Note: This is the sixth part in a series in which the late Rene Caisse, Bracebridge's "Cancer Cure Nurse", described her struggle to have Essiac accepted by the medical establishment. What follows is in Rene Caisse's own words.)

I well remember the first injection of the medication: Dr. R.O. Fisher called me and said he had a patient from Lyons, New York, who had cancer of the throat and tongue and he wanted me to inject it into the tongue. Well, I was nearly scared to death as there was a violent reaction -- a severe chill and the tongue was swollen so badly, the doctor had to press it down with a spatula to let the patient breathe. This lasted about 20 minutes, then the swelling went down, the chill subsided and the patient was alright; in fact, the cancer stopped growing and the patient went home and lived quite comfortably for almost four years.

It was then we started eliminating one substance, then another, until I found out which ingredients actually stopped the growth of the malignancy and could be given by intermuscular injection, without causing any reaction. However, we found that this was not enough. The other ingredients were necessary to purify the blood while the growth was being destroyed, so we decided that along with the injection, I would give the medicine orally. This brought quicker results than just giving it all orally, as I had been doing up to that time.

Doctors then started sending their patients to me at my apartment, until I had about 30 a day. I had to give up and leave the city because the other tenants in the apartment house where I was living, objected. In any case I did not make any charge and could not afford to carry on there, so I went to Peterborough and rented a house. I no sooner got moved in than the College of Physicians and Surgeons sent a policeman to issue a warrant for my arrest. When this man talked to me, he said: "I am not going to issue this warrant, I am going back to talk to Dr. Noble, my chief." I did not see him again. Next day I wrote to The Honourable, The Minister of Health (Dr. Robb), and asked for a hearing. I received a letter back, granting me a hearing on the following Monday at 2 p.m. I contacted the doctors who had given me patients. Five of them came

with me with about 12 patients.

We were received very graciously at Queen's Park by Dr. Robb (Minister of Health), the Honourable Dr. B.T. McGee (Deputy Minister) and Dr. Cunningham of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

After I had presented my case, Dr. Robb said I could carry on, providing that patients came to me with their doctor's diagnoses and that I did not make a charge. He said that I would not be interfered with. I told him that my ambition was to prove "Essiac" treatment on its merit and make it acceptable to the medical profession.

I had become an independent research worker and he said he admired my courage, so I started out again, quite proud and happy -- never dreaming of the opposition I would meet. A few days later I had a phone call from Dr. Albert Bastedo, of Bracebridge, who had sent me a patient with cancer of the bowel. Dr. Bastedo said he was so impressed with the results of this case that he had gone before the Bracebridge Town Council and had persuaded them to offer me the Old British Lion Hotel building as a clinic, if I would come back to my home town to practice.

He persuaded me to accept this offer. The mayor and council were very enthusiastic and with their aid and the aid of friends, relatives and patients, I furnished an office, dispensary, reception room and five treatment rooms. Here I worked for almost eight years with a large "Cancer Clinic" sign on the door.

Doctors sent or brought their patients to me. Doctors from many parts of the United States came to watch me treat, to examine patients and observe results. Patients came from far in ambulances, but after having a few treatments, were able to walk into the clinic by themselves. They came from far and near.

Here, for almost eight years, I treated thousands of patients, most of them given up as hopeless, after everything in medical science had failed. I always had faith that if I could accumulate enough proof of the different kinds, demanded by the Cancer Society, that they would eventually be glad to accept "Essiac" as a treatment for cancer. I did not then know of an organized effort to keep a cancer cure from being discovered.

At this stage I was beginning to feel the pressure brought to bear on the doctors who were giving diagnoses. Patients would come to the clinic without written diagnoses from their doctors, and since I just had permission to treat patients who came from their doctors with a written diagnosis, I had to turn them away. They would beg me to treat them and, no doubt, brought pressure to bear on their family doctors, who would give them a diagnosis reluctantly. It was very heartbreaking at times. Sometimes visiting doctors would examine these patients and give a written diagnosis in pity for the patient.

Some people from Chicago, who knew of my work, persuaded Dr. John Wolfer of Northwestern University, Medical Division, Alumni

Association of Chicago, to have me treat patients in their clinic under the observation of their doctors. Dr. B. (a consultant specialist), took me to see Dr. Wolfer and read the histories of the cases I was to treat -- all hopeless cases. I looked them over and asked, "When would you like me to start doctor?"

He looked surprised, because he had expected me to turn them down (so he told me later). We then arranged that I should be in Chicago and treat these patients under the observation of five doctors every Thursday. Dr. B. asked me on the way back to my friends, why I had accepted these terrible cases. "I will show results that will surprise them even in this late stage of the disease," I said "enough to interest the most skeptical of them" -- and I did.

They later offered to open a clinic in the Passavant Hospital in Chicago for me, if I would stay in the United States.

Next week (Part VII) -- The Cancer Commission farce.

Rene Caisse's own story: Part VII

Cancer Commission was nothing but a farce

(Editor's Note: This is the seventh part in a series in which the late Rene Caisse, Bracebridge's "Cancer Cure Nurse", described her struggle to have Essiac accepted by the medical establishment. What follows is in Rene Caisse's own words.)

For many years I took delegations and groups of cured patients to the Department of Health, always accompanied by doctors, the mayor and members of the council, asking that my treatment be recognized. This Bill was presented by the Honourable Leopold McCaulley and J. Frank Kelly, Liberal Member of Parliament. Three hundred patients, my pastor, the mayors of Bracebridge and Huntsville and many prominent citizens accompanied me to the Legislature where my Bill and petitions were presented to a Legislative Committee of 59 members.

In spite of all the evidence I had, I lost out by three votes. It was because of this Bill that the first "Royal Cancer Commission of Ontario" was formed. (It came to light that the C.M.A. had debated my case with the Legislature **before** my hearing and had promised that if the Bill was not passed, they would set up a Commission and give my "Essiac" treatment a fair investigation.)

It is my opinion that the hearing of my case before the Cancer Commission was one of the greatest farces ever perpetrated in the history of man.

Over 380 patients came to be heard, and the Commission limited the hearing to 49 patients. Then, in their report, stated that I had only taken 49 patients to be heard -- that x-ray reports were not acceptable as a diagnosis, and that the 49 doctors had made wrong or mistaken diagnoses. It is a sad state of affairs if doctors can diagnose an affliction as "Cancer" and send the patients home with a few months (at most) to live, if they are not sure.

In the 49 cases examined by the Ontario Cancer Commission, the

majority of these had more than the diagnosis of one doctor; some of them had three or four doctors and were told they had Cancer and were treated for malignancy before coming to me for "Essiac Treatment".

The Cancer Commission, at the hearing, admitted that every patient presented had benefitted or had been cured by "Essiac"; many of them with pathological findings and reports -- but they said that the doctors had all been mistaken in diagnosing the cases. Over 300 patients were waiting to be heard but the Commission stated that they had seen enough to give a report.

They made a big thing of my not giving my formula, but did not state that I had for years been offering to give it to them, providing they would admit some merit for "Essiac" on the clinical proof I presented and assure me that it would be used. Under these conditions, I would have gladly given it to them -- but they would not give me any assurance that it would not be shelved, so I kept my secret and they just published the bald statement that I "refused to give up the formula."

Dr. Emma M. Carson, M.D., of Los Angeles, examined over 400 patients at my clinic and in her letter for publication, said, "Several prominent physicians and surgeons who are quite familiar with the indisputable results obtained in response to "Essiac" treatments, and who have also asserted their intense interest in cancer research work, conceded to me that the Rene M. Caisse "Essiac" treatment is the most humane, satisfactory and frequently successful remedy for the annihilation of cancer that they had found up to this time."

Dr. B.L. Guyatt, M.D., curator and instructor of anatomy at the University of Toronto, Ontario, followed my work for over three years, coming frequently to the clinic and examining patients. I will quote from his letter:

"The first and most noticeable response observed in this 'Caisse Clinic' waiting room, is the cheerfulness and optimism of treated patients. This fascinated me -- the treatment received, appeared to be attacking the disability from the angle which had greatly interested me. In most cases, distorted countenances became normal and pain was reduced as treatment proceeded. The relief from pain is a noticeable feature, as pain in these cases is very difficult to control.

On checking authentic cancer cases, it was found that hemorrhage was readily brought under control in many difficult cases. Open lesions of lip and breast responded to treatment. Cancers of the cervix, rectum and bladder had been caused to disappear. Patients with cancer of the stomach, diagnosed by reputable physicians and surgeons, have returned to normal activity.

The number of patients treated in this clinic are many hundreds and the number responding wholly or in part, I do not know. But I do know that I have witnessed in this clinic a treatment which brings about restoration, through destroying the tumour tissue, and

✓
supplying that something which improves the mental outlook of life and facilitates re-establishment of physiological function. It is my privilege to do all in my power to bring the cancer sufferer this remedy 'Essiac' which has brought relief and restored health to many in the past."

Dr. Guyatt visited my clinic at Bracebridge almost every month for a period of three years, but, in spite of these good reports and the petitions signed by the doctors, the Commission reported that they had found no benefit in the treatment. I asked for a hearing by the Registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons and had an answer saying that if I treated any more patients, they would take me to court.

Part VIII next week.

Rene Caisse's own story: Part VIII

Medical dictatorship keeps doctors in line

(Editor's Note: This is the eighth part in a series in which the late Rene Caisse, Bracebridge's "Cancer Cure Nurse", described her struggle to have Essiac accepted by the medical establishment. What follows is in Rene Caisse's own words.)

Knowledge destroys the occult in medicine and transforms it into a science, not, however, until the profession is permeated with the fact and common sense -- "That truth is before any other consideration." This should be the scientific spirit in the treatment of cancer or any other disease. The profession has been moving along so-called scientific lines and not natural lines and, it is my opinion, that the dictation of a few men is faithfully followed by many general practitioners without question. It is my opinion that if anyone steps out of line and does his or her own thinking and accomplishes anything out of the ordinary, with medicine and methods generally unknown, the dictators ostracize and condemn them without a fair investigation. No matter how much greater his or her accomplishment is, than those of the dictators, they are "quackific" and not "scientific". He or she is a quack and an exploiter. The true facts are, that the lone thinker (as in my case), has become so absorbed and interested in the results obtained that he or she suddenly awakens to the fact that they had been exploited of everything they possessed.

The prevailing spirit of modern medicine has been that of striving for dominance and domination, rather than direction. The fact of the matter is that it lies **with broad-minded laymen** to take a firm stand. Then the lone thinkers, who have achieved success in the treatment of cancer, may have an opportunity to demonstrate the method and the success he or she is having in the treatment of this dread disease.

Having selected 26 of the many patients treated with "Essiac" years ago, I wrote to each one to find out if they were still living. To

my surprise, I received signed and witnessed statements from 21 (out of 26) who were still living and without a recurrence for over 20 years. I cannot understand what greater proof the Medical Association requires before admitting that "Essiac" is at least beneficial. Most of these patients were given but a few months to live by their respective doctors before coming to me.

Medical science has nothing to offer the cancer sufferer but x-ray, radium and surgery. Radiation, they now admit, has the opposite effect -- **it causes cancer**, instead of curing it. We all know how little medical science has achieved in this field of medicine, so I will not elaborate upon it.

There was just one incident in the eight years of running my weekly clinics at Bracebridge that marred the serenity of my work, and I will never forget it. A patient, a Mrs. Gilrouth, walked into my treatment room. I gave her a treatment and she immediately dropped dead. I had treated over 50 patients that day with the same medication and they were all fine.

There were two doctors there, but she was dead before they could do anything. I remembered that her doctor had told me that this could happen any time from an embolism. Her two sons who were with her told me that their doctor had warned them that this could happen any time. They said that she had had a weak spell that morning and they did not want to bring her for treatment, but she had insisted on coming.

Her doctor had told me over the telephone that she had this condition, plus an ulcer which would not heal, and that he would appreciate it very much if I would treat her for the relief I could give her. He sent me a written diagnosis of her case. Needless to say, I was very upset but I had to continue treating the patients who had come from long distances. They were all anxious to have their treatments in spite of what had happened.

The C.M.A. were notified and they blasted me in all the papers -- big headlines "**Woman dies after treatment at Caisse Cancer Clinic in Bracebridge**", etc. etc. They sent the two head pathologists, Dr. Robinson and Dr. Frankish, from Toronto, to do an autopsy. They did not arrest me, but held a "court" and gave me a "trial by jury" of 12 men.

The Judge was Dr. Smirlie Lawson of Toronto. Somehow it got out that I could not find the written diagnosis from her doctor -- it was mislaid -- but I found it before appearing in court. I did not have time to tell my lawyers that I had found it, so they were surprised when the Crown Attorney asked me if I had a written diagnosis for this case and I presented it to him.

The 58 patients I had treated that day were all in court to testify for me, and Mrs. Gilrouth's husband and her two sons also testified for me. The pathologists went out of their way to assure the jury that this would have happened whether she had come for treatment or not -- so I was completely exonerated from all blame. There was no excuse for putting me through this ordeal. They did not close

my clinic, so I carried on as usual. Why did they have me up on trial? If they had waited for the report of the autopsy by their own pathologists, there would have been no necessity of a trial because the report read "Death occurred as a result of an embolism in the pulmonary artery; a condition brought about a varicose condition. Pulmonary embolism had been evident for years."

Part IX next week.

Rene Caisse's own story: Part IX

Essiac was subjected to a very unfair hearing

(Editor's Note: This is the ninth part in a series in which the late Rene Caisse, Bracebridge's "Cancer Cure Nurse", described her struggle to have Essiac accepted by the medical establishment. What follows is in Rene Caisse's own words.)

The inquest, mentioned last week, into the death of Mrs. Gilrouth was conducted by Dr. Smirlie Lawson of the Attorney-General's Department and Dr. E.G. Ellis, Coroner of Bracebridge.

Professor Robinson, Professor of Pathology at the University of Toronto (one of the most distinguished pathologists on the continent) and Dr. Edgar Frankish, the medical legal expert of the Attorney-General's Department, made the post-mortem examination on Mrs. Gilrouth.

Professor Robinson said that Dr. Frankish had taken certain of the organs to Toronto to study. The cause of death, Dr. Frankish said, was a large circular embolism in the pulmonary artery.

The cause of death in his report was "Pulmonary Embolism". Professor Robinson said that in one of the clots he found two fibrous tissue cells and he knew that the clots were not new. In any event, he said, "There would have been no time between the "Essiac injection" and death, for such a blood clot to form.

He agreed with Dr. Frankish that death was due to a pulmonary embolism. I have asked myself many times **why** they subjected me to this trial. Was it to afford publicity that would make the public and patients less confident in the efficacy of "Essiac" as a beneficial treatment for cancer?

If it was, it failed in its purpose, because more and more patients came for treatment after the trial than had been coming before, and more doctors visited my clinic to see for themselves what was going on.

It seems so many years ago that I was a young nurse full of enthusiasm for my work and love and respect for the profession I had chosen, and full of love and respect for the doctors I had worked with. Doctors in that day **were doctors**, dedicated men.

Their oath meant something to them. Their lives were dedicated to the healing of the sick, the helping of suffering humanity in every way possible. It was a privilege to be called to the bedside of the sick who needed them.

There are still such doctors today, but they are servile to the "powers that be" and cannot do as they wish to do. I found this out when I tried to prove the merits of "Essiac -- Herbal Treatment for Cancer", independent of The Cancer Society.

After trying for over 25 years, and presenting every possible type of proof demanded to have my discovery of "Essiac" accepted by the medical profession, it is my opinion that cancer is a closed book, because if any cancer cure was discovered and accepted it would revolutionize the whole present-day method of treatments. It would do away with radium, deep x-ray and, to some extent, surgery -- as treatments of cancer. It would also lose for the cancer organization control of millions of dollars freely given by our government and the public, in the hope of finding a cure for this dread disease.

It is also my opinion that this organization has powers beyond, and not subject to, our common laws. They have their own police and their own courts of law where they hear and report upon everything presented as a cure or beneficial treatment for cancer.

All these hearings are held "in camera" and they report just whatever they wish and their report is accepted. The discoverer of the treatment has no comeback. I speak with authority because I was subjected to just such a hearing at such loss, as this summary tells of my hearing before the Ontario Cancer Control Board in 1938:

Report

The cases have been numbered for convenience and, in the following analysis, the 49 cases are referred to by number only:

Diagnosis by biopsy:

- * Recoveries attributable to radiation - 3;
- * Recoveries attributable to surgery - 1;
- * Recoveries attributable to Essiac - 1;
- * Recoveries attributable to radiation, plus Essiac - 1;
- * Improvement claimed from Essiac - 2;
- * Total: 8

Diagnosis based on x-ray:

No. 10 stomach: Essiac only (recovery)

- x-ray, April 1937: large growth at the outlet of the stomach (too extensive for removal).

- x-ray, September 1937: no sign of growth or scarring.

- x-ray, October 1937: very marked improvement over those taken in April 1937.

The first and last of these were done in the same place. It is believed the original diagnosis was wrong because the different reports were contradictory. An extensive cancer in or about the stomach could not disappear without leaving a scar, and this should be detected by x-ray.

No. 12 stomach: X-ray report - probable suspicion of cancer, Essiac only (recovery).

No. 16 stomach: X-ray - "growth", Essiac only. After some

treatment, says "he passed it" (4 inches long and 3/4 inches wide).
No. 18 rectum: Diagnosis by x-ray. None of the usual symptoms of cancer of rectum. Essiac only (recovery).
No. 29 stomach: Essiac only (getting better).
No. 30 colon: Diagnosis not positive. Essiac only (improvement).
No. 36 bowel: Essiac only (recovery).
No. 41 colon: Essiac only (lump smaller).
No. 46 rectum: Essiac only (recovery). Discharge of pus from rectum after first treatment. Diagnosis wrong.
No. 48 rectum: Essiac only. After some treatment, something broke. Large discharge of pus with immediate relief. Wrong diagnosis.
- Diagnosis wrong (16, 46 & 48)
- Diagnosis questionable (10 & 18)
- Diagnosis not positive (12 & 30)
- Diagnosis accepted (29, 36 & 41)
Recovery attributable to Essiac - 1
Improvement claimed from Essiac - 2
To be continued next week (Part X)

Rene Caisse's own story: Part X

Essiac helped cure diabetes as well as cancer

(**Editor's Note:** This is the tenth part in a series in which the late Rene Caisse, Bracebridge's "Cancer Cure Nurse", described her struggle to have Essiac accepted by the medical establishment. What follows is in Rene Caisse's own words.)

In last week's article Rene was in the process of summarizing the report of the 1939 Cancer Commission. This summary, and what follows, appears in this week's instalment of Rene's own story.

No. 5 rectum: Abscess plus cancer. Essiac only (recovery).

No. 6 uterus: Essiac only (recovery). Says doctor told her brother she had cancer. Essiac only other treatment.

No. 8 prostate: Diagnosis 1936 (Essiac only other treatment).

No. 9 cervix: Cured by radium. Said to have recurrence the following month. No medical diagnosis, then Essiac (recovery).

No. 11 skin: Essiac only (all healed but bottom of ear).

No. 13 rectum: Essiac only (less pain).

No. 14 lip: Radiation (recurrence one or two months later). Medical diagnosis. Then Essiac (recovery).

No. 15 cervix: Evidence of diagnosis is her statement that Dr. Haslett of Lockwood Clinic wrote Dr. Greig that she had cancer. Against this is the fact that Dr. F.M. Greig, a week later, wrote advising that the patient go to Dr. W. Scott, Toronto, for a definite diagnosis. Essiac only (recovery).

No. 17 lip: No diagnosis of cancer, but radium advised. Essiac only (recovery).

No. 19 rectum: Essiac only (still recurring abscesses).

No. 22 mouth: Essiac only (still has leucoplakia).

No. 31 nose: Essiac only (recovery).

No. 33 rectum: Had recto-vesical fistula. Essiac only (recovery).

No. 49 cervix: Suspicion of cancer. Essiac only (recovery).

No. 42 lip: Radiation, one to three weeks afterwards. Essiac (recovery).

No. 44 bladder: Surgical removal three years ago (recurrence). Then Essiac (now 75 per cent better).

No. 4 scalp: Recurrence (six years after hysterectomy and radium). Essiac only (recovery).

- Diagnosis questionable (5, 6, 8, 9, 15, 19, 33, 49) - 8

- Diagnosis not positive (17 & 38) - 2

- Diagnosis accepted (7, 11, 13, 14, 21, 31, 42, 44) - 8

- Recovery attributable to radiation (14 & 42) - 2

- Recovery attributable to Essiac (21 & 31) - 2

- Improvement claimed for Essiac (7, 11, 13, 44) - 4

I have in my possession, signed and witnessed statements from the following people who have lived from 11 to 24 years after "Essiac" treatments without a recurrence:

Mrs. Eliza Veitch (18 years), Mr. Norman Thompson (20 years), Mr. John McNee (25 years), Mr. Wilson Hammell (22 years), Mrs. Lillian Heller (11 years), Mrs. Lena Wagner (18 years), Mrs. J.H. Stewart (16 years), Mrs. Lizzie Pearl Ward (14 years), Mr. D.H. Laundry (20 years), Mrs. Hattie M. Wurts (20 years), Mr. Jack Finley (20 years), Miss May Henderson (20 years), Mr. Walter Hampson (15 years), Mr. Herbert K. Rawson (28 years), Mr. Tony Bozuik (22 years), Mrs. Clara Thornbury (22 years), Mrs. G. Tibble (25 years), Mrs. Jessie Slater (11 years), Mrs. E. Forsythe (24 years), Mrs. Nellie McVittie (23 years).

My views are based upon the knowledge acquired in the field of animal and clinical medical research, just as the forestry engineer, the mining engineer, geologist, mineralogist, etc., have to go out into the field to gain first-hand knowledge of what to look for and find, before he is fully qualified to do his work.

So also did I go out into the field of cancer research and, with the assistance and guidance of many medical men of high standing, worked out and developed my discovery of "Essiac" beneficial treatment for this dread disease.

It is my opinion that the cancer situation will never be resolved as long as too much power is left in the hands of too few.

I believe there is, just as in the nerve system and the circulatory system, a chain reaction; so also is there a chain reaction in the glandular system which connects and stimulates all of the glands (of discovered and undiscovered origin) into normal functioning.

For almost eight years I conducted an open clinic in Bracebridge, where I administered "Essiac" injections for cancer, to hundreds of patients each week who came to me with their doctors, or with a written diagnosis from their doctors.

During this time many, many doctors, surgeons and scientists visited my clinic, read case histories, examined patients and

watched me administer Essiac treatments. So many of these doctors gave their opinion that my treatments acted upon all of the glands of the body.

This coincided with the statement made many years ago by Dr. Frederick J. Banting, of Insulin fame, who was reviewing the work I had done with the first nine doctors who asked me to treat patients under their observation.

I was nursing at that time and had to treat these patients in my time off from my work. At that time nurses had to work 12 hours a day, so I only had my two-hour rest period or my evenings to give to this work.

There was one case which interested Dr. Banting particularly, as she was a diabetic, as well as a cancer patient. Dr. J.A. McInnis, of Timmins, asked me to treat this patient for him under his observation. He was at that time administering large doses of Insulin to Mrs. C.

Not knowing what effect Essiac would have on a patient taking Insulin, I did not want to give Essiac injections along with the Insulin. So, Dr. McInnis said he would discontinue the Insulin, and I should give the Essiac for a time, and if the diabetic condition got worse he would go back to Insulin. To our surprise, the diabetic condition improved with the Essiac injections and continued to improve until there wasn't any diabetes at all.

Next week, Part XI

Rene Caisse's own story: Part XI

Essiac added 18 years to her mother's life

(Editor's Note: This is the eleventh part in a series in which the late Rene Caisse, Bracebridge's "Cancer Cure Nurse", described her struggle to have Essiac accepted by the medical establishment. What follows is in Rene Caisse's own words.)

When Essiac was administered to a patient suffering from diabetes, the diabetes disappeared and then the cancer gradually got smaller. At first, the cancer became larger and harder and almost caused an obstruction in the bowel. However, after a few more treatments it softened and reduced in size until it entirely disappeared. X-ray pictures were taken during the course of treatment to see what was taking place. The Essiac treatments were discontinued after six months of weekly injections and the patient continued in good health.

Dr. Banting made this remark, "Essiac must actuate the pancreatic gland into normal functioning," he said, "otherwise the patient would have had to take treatment for the rest of her life, just as she would have had to take Insulin." He was greatly impressed with the pictures I had to show, of surface cases (also with the doctors' reports and notes on the other cases). The doctors in Toronto had given me patients to treat under their observation,

after everything known to medical science had tried and failed. Another noticeable development after Essiac treatments (and remarked upon by the many visiting doctors) was the fact that all patients would seem to throw off all of their depressions, fears, distress and burdens and develop a new optimistic outlook on life. As pain decreased and disappeared they would become happy and talkative.

My waiting room was the brightest spot in my clinic. Patients were happy to talk to visiting doctors, and would tell of how distressed they were when they first came for treatments and how much relief from pain they had after a few treatments, etc. They were no longer sick at heart, they had hope.

Many patients were brought to the clinic in ambulances and their first treatment had to be administered to them in the ambulance. After the fourth or fifth, and sometimes the sixth treatment, they could come in a car and walk with assistance into the clinic. It would not be long before they could walk in without assistance. This was a happy event for them because many of them never hoped to even get out of bed again.

It was about this time that my own dear mother became ill. The four town doctors said that she had gallstones and her heart was too weak for an operation. As she got worse I insisted on calling in Dr. Roscoe Graham, a consulting specialist of international fame, for an examination and a consultation with the other doctors. Mother was 72 years old at the time.

After the consultation, Dr. Graham came to me and said, "Your mother has cancer, Miss Caisse, her liver is a nodular mass." And Dr. McGibbon, who was set against my cancer work, said very sarcastically, "Why don't you do something?" I answered "I'm certainly going to try, doctor." "How long has she got?", I asked Dr. Graham. And he said that he thought it would only be a matter of days.

I immediately started treating her with Essiac. I gave it daily for ten days. When she improved I reduced the treatments to three a week, then to two, then to one. As she continued to improve, to make a long story short, my mother completely recovered and passed away quietly after her ninetieth birthday, with no pain, just a tired heart. This repaid me for all of my work, having given my mother 18 years of life which she would not have had, and made up for a great deal of the persecution I had endured at the hands of the medical world.

My faith in my discovery, and the help I could give to suffering humanity, made it possible for me to endure the opposition I encountered -- my faith that someday, somehow, "Essiac" would be made available to all cancer sufferers all over the world. A monetary reward never entered into my mind.

The look of gratitude I saw in the eyes of my patients when relief from pain was accomplished and the hope and relief when they saw their malignancies reducing, was pay enough for my endeavour.

For years the ministers and priests offered special prayers in their churches that my treatment would be accepted by the medical world. These ministers and priests saw these patients come to town very ill and saw them improve and recover from their illnesses, and as I had patients from all denominations they knew that my work was for the good of suffering humanity, and they prayed that God would smile upon it.

Cancer has baffled medical science for many, many years and the death rate is increasing in leaps and bounds. After 50 years of research, medical science knows not the cause, nor the cure for it. Recurrences of cancer after surgery are frequent. Should they not know that this treatment is wrong in a great many cases?

The acceptable diagnosis for cancer by the medical works is to cut out a section of the growth for analysis. This method aggravates the growth into growing more rapidly and thereby lessens the patient's chance of recovery.

This has been their method for years. X-ray locates the growth and medical science has to operate before it is acknowledged to be cancer. The medical profession is as reluctant to accept any new method of treatment, as they were in the time of Louis Pasteur, when he suggested the sterilization of instruments for operations.
Part XII next week.

Rene Caisse's own story: Part XII

Professional jealousy has hampered research

(**Editor's Note:** This is the twelfth part in a series in which the late Rene Caisse, Bracebridge's "Cancer Cure Nurse", described her struggle to have Essiac accepted by the medical establishment. What follows is in Rene Caisse's own words.)

I treated cancer with Essiac hypodermically for many decades successfully. I am a nurse, not a doctor, therefore I always made sure that every case was diagnosed by a qualified physician, and as often as possible administer treatment under the observation of doctors.

Essiac is an herbal treatment given as an intermuscular injection and is quite harmless even to a well person. I have hoped to prove that it is a preventive medication.

As a rule patients were presented by their doctors after everything known to medical science had been used and failed. Even in the most advanced cases I was able to stop hemorrhaging, relieve pain and prolong life.

I classify myself, not as a quack, but as an independent cancer research worker, because, besides the great amount of clinical experience I have had, I have intermittently done a great deal of animal research with doctors, in and out of clinics. In fact, years ago I converted my own mother's basement into a laboratory where I worked on mice, with doctors who were interested.

I found that on mice inoculated with human carcinoma that after nine days of Essiac treatments the growth would regress until it was no longer invading the living tissue.

One could understand the attitude of the medical profession if they had themselves found anything better to offer.

It is now charged that professional jealousy among doctors and research workers is delaying a cure for cancer. The charge is made by a medical doctor, Dr. I. MacDonald, director of the Biochemical Research Foundation of the Frankwood Institute of Philadelphia. In a statement recently published in one of the Institute Journals Dr. MacDonald declares, "the jealousies and antagonisms of the cancer research workers in this country have delayed the cure of cancer many, many years."

Continuing his charge Dr. MacDonald says, "a number of years ago I thought it would be a grand idea to correlate all the research on cancer then in existence to prevent undue duplication, and that each would get the advantage of the other workers.

But I found that university men who make up the workers were very jealous of their plans and results. They considered their advancement within the university to be dependent upon their reputation, as gained by publication. And the results were their own stock and trade.

"It seems almost unbelievable that the fullest advantages of research in so vital a field of medical science as cancer treatment, should be denied to the public for any cause, much less from professional jealousy."

I disputed the Royal Cancer Commission's findings and their report to the government of my cases. Particularly, in the case of Mrs. Annie Bonner of 260 Logan Avenue, Toronto, case number 35. Mrs. Bonner's case was listed as a cure attributable to radiation.

The sworn statement by Dr. E.H. Shannon to the Commission states, "It is my opinion, however, that this patient cannot be accepted as a cure due to radiation treatment or to any other form of therapy, in view of the fact that the disease was never positively established."

But, I have a diagnosis given to me by Mrs. Bonner before administering the treatment to her which reads: "This is to certify that Mrs. Annie Bonner, 260 Logan Avenue, Toronto, has been receiving treatment at St. Michael's Hospital for cancer of the cervix.

She has developed metastases in the upper right arm." This is signed by Dr. J.C. Theobald, M.D., 270 Queen St. East, Toronto. The doctors at St. Michael's Hospital told Mr. Bonner that her only hope of life was the amputation of her right arm.

Dr. Connell of Kingston, Ontario refused this case, stating in his letter to Mr. Bonner that the case was too far advanced for his treatment. Now I have Mrs. Bonner's own statement.

Next week... Mrs. Bonner's testimonial

Rene Caisse's own story: Part XIII

Diagnosed as having cancer... cured by Essiac

(Editor's Note: This is the thirteenth part in a series in which the late Rene Caisse, Bracebridge's "Cancer Cure Nurse", described her struggle to have Essiac accepted by the medical establishment. What follows is in Rene Caisse's own words.)

I have a diagnosis given to me by Mrs. Bonner before administering the treatment to her which reads -- "This is to certify that Mrs. Annie Bonner, 260 Logan Avenue, Toronto, has been receiving treatment at St. Michael's Hospital for cancer of the cervix. She has developed metastases in the upper right arm."

This is signed by Dr. J.C. Theobald, M.D., 270 Queen Street East, Toronto. The doctors at St. Michael's Hospital told Mr. Bonner that her only hope of life was the amputation of her right arm.

Dr. Connell, of Kingston, Ontario, refused this case stating in his letter to Mr. Bonner that the case was too far advanced for his treatment. Now I have Mrs. Bonner's own statement:

Dear Miss Caisse:

It is with much pleasure that I give you herewith, particulars of the history of my case.

It was in December, 1935, that I was rushed to St. Michael's Hospital here in Toronto by Dr. Stanley, who examined me, and after having a section of growth removed for examination told my husband that it was definitely cancer. He told him also that it was inoperable, as the growth had already spread to other internal organs.

I suffered agonies for ten days with radium needles and spent altogether nine weeks in the hospital.

After four weeks' rest I started taking x-ray treatment. These were administered each day and sometimes twice a day for a year, except for occasional periods of rest when I was too badly burned to continue.

By this time the x-ray treatments spread the growth up the right side of my body to the right shoulder. At this time the doctor suggested removing the right arm from the shoulder. Needless to say, I was feeling very ill and was unable to rise from my bed or even a chair without help. My weight had gone down from 120 pounds to 90 pounds and I had no appetite whatever.

About this time a friend told us of your work at Bracebridge and as the doctors could do nothing more for me when I refused to have the arm amputated, we decided to try your treatments. You will remember how my arm was black and swollen to more than twice its normal size and I could not bear to have anything touch it. I was so weak that I had to lie down in the back of the car during the first few trips back and forth to Bracebridge.

But after a few treatments I began to feel much better. The swelling gradually went down in the arm and my appetite improved.

In the summer of 1937 Dr. Leonardo, chief coroner for Rochester, New York, who saw my condition, said that my arm was dead and would never move again.

But thanks to Essiac my arm is normal. After about 60 treatments I underwent a series of x-ray examinations and am delighted to say that no sign of the growth appeared whatever.

I am feeling quite well and able to do all my own housework. I thank God for having spared me, and sincerely hope that you may be able to carry on this work and eventually be able to make your treatments available to all cancer sufferers.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Annie Bonner

In spite of all the evidence like this, and the fact that many people witnessed Mrs. Bonner's improvement and recovery under my treatment, the Royal Cancer Commission had listed this number "recovery due to radiation".

Another case I can illustrate as cured by Essiac treatment is Mr. Walter Hampson at Utterson, Ontario, who had cancer of the lip.

Dr. A.F. Bastedo took a section of this for analysis and after receiving the pathologist's report urged Mr. Hampson to go at once to have radium treatment -- he had no time to lose because he had squamous carcinoma of the lip.

He refused to have radium and came for Essiac treatments and gave me the following report:

Mr. Walter Hampson, Utterson, Ontario, age 34. Dr. Ainsley, pathologist. Diagnosis: Squamous Carcinoma of the lip. Microscopic report sections through the tissue showed marked inflammation and thickening of the surface layers of the epithelium and underlining stroma.

The epithelium also shows the basal layer irregular and spreading out in the underlying tissue in a manner suggestive of early malignancy.

Although the lesion is largely inflammatory, it is impossible to rule out malignancy owing to the hyperplastic character of the squamous epithelium.

The gross specimen of a small portion of whitish grey tissue, measuring 4x5x3 is firm and fibrous in character and shows small areas of hemorrhage.

Signed, T.E. Ainsley, pathologist.

I cured Mr. Hampson and he went before the Royal Cancer Commission on July 4, 1939 with other patients. In spite of the fact that he never had an operation, other than having a small nodule removed for analysis, this case is listed in the Royal Commission's Report as recovery due to surgery -- listed as number 34. Mr. Hampson is still living and has had no recurrence, 1962.

Many of my cases were disposed of in like manner. I am thankful that there were two cases they could not dispute and which they credited me with curing, which is more than any other treatment had to its credit.

Every patient who went before the Commission claimed to have been benefited or cured by my treatment.

Next week... Further testimonials on Essiac successes.

Rene Caisse's own story: Part XIV

"The world needs Essiac and needs it badly"

(Editor's Note: This is the fourteenth part in a series in which the late Rene Caisse, Bracebridge's "Cancer Cure Nurse", described her struggle to have Essiac accepted by the medical establishment. What follows is in Rene Caisse's own words.)

What I cannot understand is why in the case of Mrs. Bonner, where radiation and x-ray had failed and amputation is indicated, the Commission gave radiation the credit for the cure.

And when Dr. Connell refused a case that I was able to cure, they ignored me and recommended Dr. Connell for a government grant of \$25,000.

Mr. G.H.O. Thomas, former mayor and Bracebridge Gazette publisher, made this comment in this paper:

Tony Bazuk is a good-looking fellow in early manhood with a slightly foreign appearance, speaking broken English. Tony was brought to me Tuesday afternoon by Mr. Frank Morris, CNR conductor, whose run is Toronto to Capreol.

"This is Tony Bazuk from Capreol", said Mrs. Morris. Tony's greeting was very hearty -- "I came down to see Miss Caisse, but she is away," he said. "My lip is big", which he indicated by putting his big workman's fist up to it.

"That's right," said Mr. Morris. "I have known Tony for 10 or 12 years. He works for the CNR in Capreol.

"They sent me to London," Tony broke in, "and gave me radium. My mouth got awful sore and worse and my lip bigger than ever. I could only take food through a straw. I could not bear anything hot or cold. I could not breathe through my mouth," he continued.

"That is all true," said the conductor.

"Johnny Bryant, an engineer, knew I had cancer, saw me, and told me I should go to Bracebridge to see Miss Caisse," said Tony.

"But I have no money," Tony said. "Johnny put his hand in his pocket and gave me \$5 and told me he didn't want it back."

"I came to Bracebridge November 8 and Miss Caisse gave me some salve to put on my lip and put something into my arm and told me to come back in two weeks. I couldn't get away then and when I came down today she was away. Look at my lip now," he said.

"I did and only some little scars, which he said were made by radium, gave evidence that there had even been anything wrong with his lip," wrote G.H.O. Thomas.

"Only one treatment by Miss Caisse and a lip and mouth, swollen the size of a man's fist and torturing with pain, had become a normal

lip and healthy petition.

Mr. Bazuk is Canadian born of Ukrainian parents. He grew up in a Ukrainian settlement in Manitoba where very little English is spoken. Tony Bazuk is but one more example of a multitude of sufferers treated by Miss Caisse. His condition before the treatment is vouched for by conductor Frank Morris, who people know so well."

This is one of the few cases where the Cancer Commission had to acknowledge a cure. Tony Bazuk is still living and well (1977). I have a letter from him stating that he has never had a recurrence and is working and has a family.

The Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Mitchell Hepburn, said, and I quote "The onus is on the medical profession now. They must either prove or disprove Miss Caisse's claims and I do not believe they can disprove them. I am in sympathy with Miss Caisse's work and will do all in my power to help her." But the medical profession were too powerful, even for our Premier.

Dr. Richard Leonardo, surgical specialist and coroner of Rochester, New York, at first scoffed at the idea of their being any merit in my work. I told him that the only way to prove or disprove the work was to remain in the clinic and see the patients and watch me work -- which he decided to do.

First day he stayed and talked to the patients. Then he decided that although he was satisfied that I was getting results, it was me and not my treatment. Entirely psychological, he said.

The second day I invited him to come into my treatment room and examine patients and watch me administer the treatment.

It was a large clinic with many very advanced cases and I did not finish until 7:30 p.m. The doctor stayed until the last patient had gone, then he said to me, "Young lady, I must congratulate you. You have made a wonderful discovery."

Dr. Carson, who was still there, agreed with him. Dr. Leonardo stayed for four days examining patients and became more and more interested with my results.

He said, "I like your method of treatment. I feel that it is going to change the whole theory of cancer treatment and will eventually do away with surgery, radium and x-ray treatments for cancer."

He offered to establish and equip a hospital in Rochester, New York, if I cared to go there and work with him. I appreciated Dr. Leonardo's opinion because he was scientifically trained in Germany and Vienna, also London and Scotland, and he was sceptical. It was a great satisfaction to be able to convince him that my treatment had merit.

The world needs Essiac and needs it badly.

Part XV next week

Rene Caisse Series

Rene Caisse's own story: Part XV

Essiac attacks cancer from the inside

(Editor's note: This is the 15th part in a series in which the late Rene Caisse, Bracebridge's "Cancer Cure Nurse", described her struggle to have Essiac accepted by the medical establishment. What follows is in Rene Caisse's own words.)

by Ted Britton

Cancer is a glandular disease. Essiac is a drug which supplies a deficiency of a secretion ordinarily supplied to the human body by a gland (of undiscovered origin), which we will call "Gland XOX". This gland should supply the body with a secretion which is resistant to cancer tissue. The lack of this secretion allows the malignant cells to prey upon and invade the healthy cells and take control of the human body, growing and multiplying until the invasion of the malignant cells into the vital organs, takes place, stopping the functioning of these organs and causing death.

This deficiency cannot be supplied from the "outside", it must be supplied through the blood stream and "Essiac" given orally or injected hypodermically supplies this resistive element and the XOX gland starts functioning normally, secreting into the living cells, the substance required to resist the onslaught of the malignant cells and thus restores health to the human body. If this was not the case, patients would have to take "Essiac" for the rest of their lives as in Insulin for diabetes.

"Essiac" given to people in health is helpful in the fact that it is a blood purifier and will stimulate the XOX gland to do its work before there is any chance of the malignant cells invading the body.

Medical Science has tried all of the unnatural means at its disposal to combat this dread disease with little or no results - - nature has supplied the need (in Essiac), to combat the disease. One has just to look at a dirty roadside in the spring and see how nature covers it up with beautiful greens and flowers, to know that nature supplies everything to make life beautiful and healthy.

If nature will do this for a dirty roadside, is it not natural to think that it will also supply the things necessary to make the body (made in the image and likeness of God), healthy and happy?

"Essiac" has been helping sufferers of malignant disease for over 25 years, healing and sometimes curing (when given before the vital organs are destroyed). If nature has supplied, for the use of the medical world, this means of combating the most dread disease known to mankind, why not use "Essiac" and reduce the mortality of the human race?

"Essiac" is a beneficial treatment for cancer. It attacks the disease from the "inside". It sets up a resistance and cuts off the

supply of the substance in the human body upon which the malignant cells thrive and multiply, causing the malignant cells to regress within themselves and giving to the healthy cells strength to rebuild themselves. Medical Science calls these malignant cells dead cells. They are more alive and aggressive than any cells in the human body.

Although not admitted by Medical Science, Cancer is, in my opinion, both contagious and hereditary in some cases. The rapid spread of this dread disease could not be caused by any other means. Some people are born with a predisposition to cancer with a non-functioning XOX gland and the slightest bruise or destruction of cells (either by pressure or constant irritation) will cause the disease to become active.

Other people born with gland XOX functioning normally (without this predisposition to cancer) can be bruised and cells destroyed and they do not develop the disease. This is why I believe there is a gland to supply us with the secretion to resist the malignant cells and is active in some people and not in others. This gland has not been discovered by medical science as yet, but when it is, the cause of cancer will be known.

In the meantime, "Essiac", as used, supplies the body with the resistance required to prolong life, to relieve pain and to cure (if taken before the malignant cells have invaded and destroyed the vital organs). It renews the normal functioning of Gland XOX.

Ulcers are very often a forerunner of cancer and can and are being cured by "Essiac". It acts on all the glands in the human body, restoring them to health and activity. It gives the patient a new mental outlook -- a happy healthy outlook, which the disease had taken away.

Final chapter -- next week

Rene Caisse Series

Rene Caisse's Story: Part XVI

"Essiac" as an aid in surgery

(Editor's Note: This is the 16th part in a series in which the late Rene Caisse, Bracebridge's "Cancer Cure Nurse", described her struggle to have Essiac accepted by the medical establishment. What follows is in Rene Caisse's own words.)

Essiac, in supplying the body with a secretion to the onslaught of malignant cells, causes the growth to regress within itself. Being localized, the growth could be removed by surgery (without cutting into a large area of healthy cells surrounding the growth) and without the danger of a recurrence as in the present-day method of operating.

In the case of cancer of the breast, the primary growth will usually invade the mammary gland of the opposite breast or the axilla, or both. If "Essiac" is administered either orally or by hypodermic injection, into the forearm, the secondary growth will regress into the primary mass, enlarging it for a time, but when it is all localized it will loosen and soften and can then be removed without the danger of recurrence. No matter where the malignancy may be in the human body, surgery would be much more successful after six to eight treatments with "Essiac". If there is any suspicion that any malignant cells are left after the operation, then "Essiac" should be given once a week for at least three months, supplying the body with the resistance to a recurrence that is needed.

In the case of cancer of the lung, after localizing with "Essiac" treatments, it would be advisable to remove the lung along with the growth. The death rate from cancer surgery could be reduced to a minimum.

Many cancer cases would not require surgery if "Essiac" were given in time.

This treatment goes right to the seat of the trouble and, if given to a patient who is ailing (and there is any suspicion of cancer), it will cause the growth to localize and is easily found by the fluoroscope or an x-ray. If there is no growth, the patient's general condition will improve.

The rapid growing malignant cells are quicker to respond to "Essiac" treatment and much easier to cure than the slow-growing type, which is a harder and more compact mass of cells.

- Rene M. Caisse

Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada

Internationally known as Canada's cancer nurse.

To whom it may concern:

This is a statement to say I had cancer. The doctors treated me for

a good while and finally told me the only thing left to do was to take radium treatments. Then I heard about the work that Rene Caisse was doing and how many cancer patients she was helping, so I went to her. I think that was in the spring of 1936 or 1937. I stayed in Bracebridge, taking treatments for about two months. I got relief almost immediately after starting treatment and have had no more recurrence of my old trouble since then.

Nellie G. McVittie

Sudbury, Ontario

(Editor's Note: This is the last in Rene Caisse's articles, but we expect to be printing more of Rene's views, as well as further items which will be of interest to those who are following the Essiac story.)