

A Book Review on “Curability of Tumours by Medicines” by J. Compton Burnett M.D.

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ABSTRACT

TUMOURS are abnormal growths of tissues, either benign or malignant. Malignant tumours / cancers are the leading causes of death worldwide accounting for nearly 10 million deaths in 2020, or nearly one in six deaths. Many cancers can be cured if detected early and treated effectively. Homoeopathy recognized as most opted complementary and alternative medicine, have potential to treat various cancers and also to reduce the side effects caused by standard therapeutic modalities like chemotherapy, radiotherapy or surgery. Burnett is a legendary physician, during his time, and J.H. Clark praises him as “most powerful, the most fruitful, and the most original force in Homoeopathy”. This article contains a critical review of his book “CURABILITY OF TUMOURS BY MEDICINES”, in which author has incorporated

principles of treatment of tumours and his experience with numerous examples.


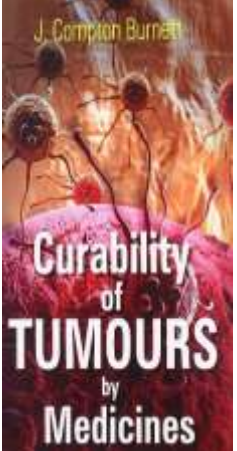
Keywords: Tumour, J.C. Burnett, Book Review

INTRODUCTION

Dr. J. COMPTON BURNETT M.D. was contemporary with Richard Hughes, R.E. Dudgeon, and Clark. He is one of the most potent influencers for evolution of British Homoeopathy. In earlier carrier, he attended Drysdale, Clark, and Hawkins Clinic, which made him fascinated about Organopathy. He is the author of books like Consumption, Liver, Ring Worm, Gout, Stunted Children, Organ Diseases of Women, Diseases of Skin, Change of Life in Women, Enlarged Tonsils, etc.

In this Article detailed review of the book “CURABILITY OF TUMOURS BY MEDICINES” by J.COMPTON BURNETT M.D. is explored.

Bibliographic information of the book:

Title: CURABILITY OF TUMOURS BY MEDICINES	 
Author: J.COMPTON BURNETT M.D.	
Publisher: B.JAIN PUBLISHERS PVT.LTD	
No of Pages: 345	
Contents: Dedication page Preface to second edition (pg no 5 to 7) Preface to first edition (pg no 9 to 16) Preliminary remarks on therapeutic principles (pg no 17 to 42) Chapter 1 to XL (40 in number) (pg no 43 to 333) Index (pg no 335 to 345) Other works of J. COMPTON BURNETT, M.D. Hard cover (back)	

This book is dedicated to Father of scientific Homoeopathy, John.J.Drysdale, M.D., by the author.

Preface to 2nd edition: Author defines "tumour" is the product of organism. Cutting off the tumour does not make cure, instead the tumour producing power must be eliminated from that organism. Here author given an example to demonstrate it, a case of eczema suppressed with ointments, which several years later manifested out as tumour in left breast. It was excised twice, it came back again in right breast, which was also removed. It appeared in the scar of right breast again, then the case was taken up by him, for which treatment was given for 4 years, the eczema exhibited itself out. So author says that eczema, tumour both are products of disease, so treat the organism not tumour.

Preface to 1st edition: Author incorporated all cases of growths, may be benign or malignant, or any name given to the extra growths. He insists physicians to carefully differentiate between incurable disease and incurable stage of perfectly curable complaint, and try to cure it, not to pretend. He deduced that Cure had been possible where it was previously proved to be impossible. The purpose of the book is to demonstrate cases where cure has taken place with only internal medication. Author incorporated "remarks on therapeutic principles" wherever needed to convey the treatment and cure of tumours is not mere empiricism. Author notifies that, the drug selection is based on totality of symptoms in some cases, and in some, organopathy, whatever so the method is, but cure takes place homoeopathically.

Curability of tumours by medicines:

Preliminary remarks on therapeutic principles: Author introduces "MEDICINA PARACELSICA" paracelsus method, rediscovered by Rademacher known as "ORGANOPATHY", which coincides practically with Hahnemann's "HOMOEOPATHY". The knowledge of drug action is obtained by giving drugs to sick, in Organopathy, where as in Homoeopathy, drug action is obtained by

giving medicine to healthy humans, but not on sick people. Eventually practitioners of organopathy incorporated the principles of Hahnemann and became large dose Homoeopaths. Subsequently they decreased the size of doses, and involved in drug provings following Homoeopathic lines, and so gradually Homeopathy swallowed up Organopathy unconsciously, and became inseparable, the author expresses.

The kind of action: Author deals with seat of action and kind of action in this section. What a disease produces in the human being, should be produced by the remedy also, author gives an example of phosphorus, which produces pneumonia and cures pneumonia. So the author mean to say a remedy to use in tumour, should have that tumour producing property.

The range of action: Author gives an example of phosphorus and its extent of action, and conveys that correct scientific homoeopathic prescription is only possible in the hands of sound diagnosticians.

Stop spot of the action: It is that spot beyond which the drug cannot go deeper or act. Author gives example to explain it. The range of drug action and the disease action should be co-extensive, then only the drug completes cure, otherwise its action ceases at a point called stop-spot. So it is highly important to consider for the real cure that "Is the drug capable of producing real disease like the one before us".

The cure of tumours by medicines: 40 chapters are present in this section. In first 3 chapters author deals with subject introduction. In chapter 4 author deals with proving on animals. From chapter 5 to 40, author gives examples of various tumours.

Essence of all the chapters are discussed below:

Chapter 1: The author explains about medicable, medicability, curable and curability, followed by some cured cases of breast tumours, which are given in detail in the book entitled "tumours of the breast: their treatment and cure by medicines". Author

says he had more than 12 years of experience in treating tumours of various kind, and are incorporated in this book. Here author gives instruction that pepper, salt, milk, meat are bad in cases of mammary tumours, and are to be removed from the diet of the patient.

Chapter 2: The difficulties: Remedy selection for the tumours depends on the etiology, structure, morphology, so the systemic medication for tumours did not existed fully. Author says it needs very large experience to construct the therapy of tumours. The author conveys that tumours are vital growths and so to be vitally approached and regarded. The time taken to treat tumours may takes long time homeopathically, so one needs patience. Hasty removal for fast relief only causes the tumour to recur.

Chapter 3: what good is it in tumour-curing: In Homoeopathy, proving's were not done till the tumour is produced in the body, but symptom similarity has cured many tumours, for example, colocynth cured several times, not only pain, but also tumour inside the body. Here etiology was considered many times for the selection of the remedy.

Chapter 4: The chapter of accidents. Bony tumours: Here the Author clarifies with examples that animals can also be used as provers. A case of exostosis of right os calcis cured by Hecla Lava, The treatment of splints in horses are discussed here. He adds a note that the tumours should be of spongy nature in order to be cured by Hecla Lava.

Chapter 5 – Enchondroma- The author says Grauvogl was the one who firstly used "nutritional remedies", and not Schussler. The author deals about treatment of Enchondroma with Silica, as he says Silica is not absorbed and utilized by organism leads to bone troubles, and gives some examples regarding it.

Chapter 6- Enchondroma continues- Hay baths- Author says Grauvogl noticed hay baths contain Silica, which was traditionally used as treatment for these kinds of tumours. Grauvogl treated a pale boy, who works as potter, suffered with splint. Silicea cured

him. Author gives example of horses which are at grass doesn't suffer from splint, but on roads suffer, as silica in hay doesn't cause splint. The author through a case of Enchondroma cured by Calcarea Fluorica, conveys that Calcarea, Silicea, and Fluorine acts on hard tumours of bone.

Chapter 7- Traumatism in the causation and cure of tumours: Author gives an example of Splenic tumour cured with alteration of Bellis Per and Ceanothus. He says selection of remedy can be based on pathological way or based on causation.

Chapter 8: More than one remedy often needful: The author says in difficult chronic cases, long series of remedies are required for cure, he call it as ladder of remedies plan, Drysdale call it as "a course of medicines". Author gives an example of a case with lump in throat, treated with series of remedies.

Chapter 9: Etiological doctrine of Homoeopathy- Sycosis- Here author discuss about a case of warty tumour cured with Thuja, Sabina, and Cupressus Lawsoniana. All the 3 remedies have sycotic nature. He says, he found from clinical experience that giving similar acting remedies give quick cure than sticking on to same remedy.

Chapter 10: John Hunter's conception of a cure the only true one- John Hunter says destruction of cancerous part does not mean cure, cure is alteration of disposition and effects of that disposition. Author familiarises drug Platanus Occidentalis which has action over cysts of upper eyelid.

Chapter 14: Tumour of left ovary- a complex case, treated for almost 4 yrs and observed for 10 years 3 months. The author used number of medicines to effect cure, and compares it to the game of chess.

Chapter 15: gives about uterine fibroid and chronic oophritis cases. He used lesser known remedies for present era, like sedum acre, sempervivum tectorum, persicaria urea for treating the case. He adds that 2 remedies urea and hecla have done good service in stubborn tumours especially in gouty persons. The case had history of eczema suppressed with Turkish baths which broke out when uterine tumour had quite gone. He

says the silenced cutaneous affections to be starting point of tumours is a fact, no vague theoretical statement.

Chapter 16: Ovarian tumour- Author testifies the patient became pregnant after treatment. He says the cures are legendary in homoeopathy, and he says his prescription is based on empirical, traditional, nosodes at times, but based on pure homoeopathic symptomatology. He also criticizes homoeopathic objectors.

Chapter 17: Tumour cured purely symptomatologically- Author gives example of ovarian tumour cured with colocynthis. He adds that symptoms are guiding for prescription. He tells about his "new cure of consumption", and he was accused by certain journalistic symptom hunters of yapping for kochian loaves and fishes.

Chapter 19- Tumour of right breast: Author claims that, he often noticed a proneness to typhoid in those disposed to phthisis. Author prescribed Silicea for the tumour which had started to suppurate. The tumour bursted and discharged enormously and given some more doses of Silicea which completely cured tumour.

Chapter 21: Organopathy grounded on Homoeopathy: The author comments that Paracelsus is the father of Organopathy, and Rademacher is its Modern Reusciator. He given an example of a case where he uses Organopathy, Homoeopathy and Zoic medicines to treat it. Here Zoic medicines means Nosodes. The author comments Organopathy is basic elementary Homoeopathy, which he found very useful in treatment of tumours. He also comments here, that Homoeopathicity, i.e., the degree of likeness existing between drug pathogenesis and the natural history of the malady is to be considered, for selection of dose. Higher homoeopathicity higher the dilution. He says while using Organopathy use small material doses often, in case of Nosodes use higher potencies. The author adds a note that Dr. Cooper always has seen good result when the case had homoeopathic aggravation, which also helps to understand

the remedy selected was the right one. The author says Homoeopathic aggravation is not often seen in case of organopathic practice.

Chapter 22: Tumour in left hypochondrium: discuss about case. Author comments bellis per has affinity for left hypochondrial tumours, as he has seen many cured by it and *Urtica urens* is great as splenic remedy he adds.

Chapter 29: Treatment of mammary tumour: Author comments a human being without ovaries is not a woman anymore since there is no offspring without ovary. This case was induration of left ovary after injury. Patient had history of vaccination, and had all sycotic symptoms, so case yielded with Thuja, followed by Magnesia Sulph due to profuse menses. The case cured in 4 months. Author thought of Bellisper, but priorly the case was relieved.

Chapter 30: Confounding case with cause: the author says externally cutting or burning the tumour does not cure the patient, it is possible only with internal treatment.

Chapter 31: Cure of tumour of left breast- Tumour started after ague fever, 9 years back. Considering the mothers history of tuberculosis, the author has prescribed Tuberculinum, followed by Natrum Mur, taking cause as important factor in developing tumour, drugged by Quinine followed by *Frageria Vesca* tincture, as mammary tumour's specific, followed by polycrest *Pulsatilla*, *Silicea*, *Hydrastis*.

In **Chapter 38-** while discussing lipoma *cruris* case the author comments if patient is having neoplastic disposition, some or other exiting cause like friction, etc will bring out tumour, and this disposition is sycotic nature.

In **chapter 39-** while describing treatment of ovarian tumour, - author comments that treatment may often been interrupted by domestic circumstance, so sometimes it takes long time to cure. Author briefs treatment type during that time for uterine, ovarian tumours, indurations, which were treated with medicated sponges. Author adds that vagina is self-cleaning, it should not be interfered.

Chapter 40- Author discusses various cases like ovarian, mammary tumours. He enlightens uses of Sanguisuga in bleeding conditions, and Frageria vesa in vascular tumours.

In Chapter 11, 12, 13, 18, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 various tumours like ovarian, abdominal, Uterine, Breast, thyroid, Vascular, Gastric, Tongue, keloid - cases were given. He adds about Isopathy and Nosodes utility in chapter 13. Author shares a letter as witness for the cure of abdominal tumour from the patient in 23rd chapter. In Chapter 25 author discusses about postural lymphoma, Vaccinosis and Psora. In Chapter 26: Author treats tumour of left breast with Ignitia, as there is grief in patient. Followed by many drugs like Thuja, Psorinum, Hydrastis, Ferrum Picricum, Bacillinum, Rubia Tinctora, Morbilingum, Sabina, Etc. In chapter 28, author comments to have good looks, women should have good functioning ovaries while discussing about ovarian tumour case. In Chapter 32 tumour of testis and shaft of penis are discussed, author familiarises drugs like virgin, stignata maidis fl ext, stillingia sylvat, etc.

Merits:

It can be clearly understood by reading cases provided in this book that many of the tumours have their origin from vaccination. So Thuja was selected for most of the cases. The vaccination here is Small pox vaccination.

Thuja, Sabina, Cupressus Lawsoniana were commonly used during Hahnemann time to treat sycosis manifestations. Number of remedies which were used during Hahnemann time to treat tumours were known after reading the text.

The method of treatment of tumours can be very well understood and utility of organopathy is also incorporated in the text, which helps in better prescription.

This book boosts the confidence in the treatment of tumours.

Demerits:

Author used German and Latin terminology in the text at many places where it is found to be difficult to understand the phrases quoted by author.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Most cases the author started treatment with Nosodes. He changed medicines based on symptomatology. More than one remedies are required in many cases to get complete cure. Many cases the author started treatment with Thuja, where he found vaccination history. The cases were treated based on pathological prescription. To conclude, this book gives immense knowledge about how organopathy got incorporated into Homoeopathy, how to deal with tumour cases, utility of nosodes, and many more concepts, so very useful for clinicians.

Declaration by Authors

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