

## HOMŒOPATHY AND CANCER

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I have been very impressed with the numbers of unassailable cures of cancer detailed in homœopathic books and journals. I was once so fortunate as to obtain a large number of old homœopathic journals, some as far back as the eighties, and the reports make impressive reading.

It is not so long since Dr. George Burford died, a surgeon of no mean skill, and held in respect by men like the late Lord Horder and other famous allopaths. Dr. Burford said he preferred to lay aside his knife and treat cancer by homœopathy and to read about his successes in apparently hopeless cases makes one marvel again at what homœopathy can do. There have been similar brilliant successes by other doctors in London, while some of the Glasgow homœopaths have actually cured cases of sarcoma, a peculiarly vicious form of malignant disease. One of the American homœopaths has reported many cases where he has restored cancer patients to perfect health.

Cancer is a disease of civilisation and everyone knows that it is multiplying at a horrifying rate. We read plenty about cancer of the lung in the papers. Cancer is merely the overgrowth of some part of an organ, but, because of its situation, it can invade and destroy other structures whose integrity is vital to health.

Occasionally, the body does cure cancer of itself without any form of treatment whatsoever, but it is only a happy few who are thus healed. Every surgeon has shaken his head sorrowfully over an inoperable growth and merely closed up the wound without attempting removal. Years afterwards, he has been dumb-founded to learn that the patient was in good health.

The late Dr. Edward Bach, who became famous for his discovery of the bowel nosodes, was an outstanding example of this. The surgeons found he had a sarcoma and he was told he had only three months to live. A doctor who was present at the operation—it was during the first World War—could not

believe his eyes when he returned to find Edward Bach alive and well.

#### **Unnecessary Fears**

Many people go in fear of cancer, because some near relative has died of it, and they want to be assured that they will not develop the same trouble. Without looking through my case reports, I think I can say that not more than six of my cancer patients do show a hereditary history of it. I have a number of patients whose father and mother both died of malignant disease, yet they have reached old age unscathed.

A ghastly book appeared once, wherein was detailed a host of medical and surgical specialists who died of their own speciality. I was staggered at the number of men who died from malignant disease of that particular organ in which lay their domain. The figures were incredible. I remember a popular Professor of Surgery, an acknowledged expert on gastric surgery, who died of cancer of the stomach when only 52. And another surgeon, equally expert, died of malignancy even younger.

#### **Early Treatment the Ideal**

The time to get the patient, if possible, is in the precancerous state when he is just heading for malignant disease. Of course, this is an ideal not so often attainable, but the results can be very spectacular before the disease has got a real foothold. We cannot always prove by the microscope that cancer is actually present in all such cases, but the response to the correct medicine proves our suspicion to have been correct.

Any doctor, seeing a patient of mine even in her younger days, would have said to himself, "You look out." She bore the hall mark of malignancy so easily recognised by the trained eye. She got more haggard as the years passed and looked so cancerous that one of the cancer nosodes was given. In the past few years, she has had over 30 doses of this same nosode, each of the 30th potency.

We are told always to raise the potency after two or three doses, but the 30th suited her constitution, which did not like

the 100th or 200th. Physically, she is reborn. Her brother was operated on and an unexpected cancer was found. The fact that she has responded so valiantly to the same potency for years bears out the dictum of a well known homœopath that we should stick to the same potency as long as the patient benefits by it.

One patient always responded to NUX VOMICA which removed symptoms of early cancer of the womb. NUX was evidently her constitutional medicine, to which I returned after trying HYDRASTIS. I have learned, however, that the patient's constitutional remedy does not always work well in cases of cancer. True, the general health may improve a lot, but the tumour seems to increase. At times, it does make a brilliant cure, but we may have to launch a more direct assault upon the growth.

#### Removal of Potential Trouble

A ferocious wart, as hard as iron, disappeared from the skin of an old lady under the external and internal exhibition of the right medicine. An old gentleman consistently nicked himself in the same place while shaving, and there sprouted a small horn, very hard, too hard. LYCOPodium, his special remedy, sent the horn about its business and thus two excrescences full of potential danger were liquidated. The old man's son has twice grown unsightly lumps after cutting himself and NITRIGUM ACIDUM which is not his constitutional medicine, has dealt with them.

Another patient used to get cracks at the corner of her mouth. Eventually, one crevasse appeared which would not heal and a hard, enlarged gland showed itself much to her alarm and my disquiet, CONDURANGO failed to hold the case, but the crack and gland faded out under one of the cancer nosodes and another remedy. Any medical student up for his final examination would have been unanimously and unhesitatingly turned down if he had failed to say these two cases were almost certainly malignant.

A lady came to see if homœopathy could remove a small, warty growth from a vocal cord. Whether the growth was

entirely innocent or not, I do not know, but it certainly carried within it the possibility of danger. No doctor would have regarded such a thing on his own vocal cord with equanimity. THUJA dispersed it.

#### Some Actual Cases

Now we come to cases of actual and proved cancer. Fourteen years ago, a lady consulted me for malignant glands deep inside her chest, the diagnosis had been made by an experienced radiologist and unhesitatingly accepted by other experts. CALCAREA FLUORICA cured her, and she has remained cured. A missionary abroad asked me if anything could be done for one of her native women, who had undergone an extensive operation for cancer, which had been followed by another tumour. Two medicines were sent and later repeated and then I gradually forgot about the case. Four years later, the missionary told me that the patient was in perfect health.

An elderly man came to see me, bringing his X-ray plates with him, though the growth on his bowel could easily be felt on the lower left side of his abdomen. Like a surprising number of patients, he refused pointblank to have any operation and nothing the surgeon could say moved him. He improved amazingly in spite of the most adverse circumstances. I never saw such horrible pyorrhœa and this, combined with the reek of stale tobacco, nearly made me sick.

The poison he must have absorbed from his gums would have killed a horse, and there were many other adverse features. With treatment the growth steadily diminished in size and could hardly be felt at the time of his last visit to me before he moved to another part of the country and I lost trace of him, but I think he was homœopathy's greatest triumph.

A lady had the womb removed for cancer. There were seven other cases in the ward at the same time for the same operation. These seven are long since dead, but she is in perfect health. She just blossomed on ARSENICUM. I know of a case where a huge abdominal swelling disappeared on HYDRASTIS given internally and applied externally.

Dr. Clarke mentions a case of sarcoma of the antrum cured

after recurrence with compresses of SYMPHYTUM applied externally, and a titled lady was cured of cancer of the tonsil by compresses of the sweet violet. Homœopathic literature abounds with cures of cancer. One lady was permanently cured of a rodent ulcer on the face; she died in her eighties without a recurrence.

A friend of mine had some fine cures to his credit, especially one of cancer of the lip. There was a marked history of cancer in the family, and the patient declared that under no circumstances would there be any operation. In eight months, the cancer had disappeared. He got an equally good cure of cancer of the tongue, the patient being in good health 18 years afterwards. A homœopathic doctor was cured of cancer of the bowel and attended a meeting of his professional brethren to testify to the fact.

I gave a surgeon friend of mine an article on cases of cancer cured by homœopathy, and he was so impressed that he later asked for it again to study it further. He believed the reports of these brilliant results, which made a marked impression on him. Not all allopathic doctors and surgeons are so fair minded, alas, as he was. Many do not believe that homœopathy can cure cancer, but they will unhesitatingly allow that spontaneous cure of malignant disease does occur. They allow this prejudice so to possess them that they are like "the blind adder of Scripture that stoppeth her ear" and will not listen to the voice of homœopaths, write they never so wisely.

#### **Need for Collaboration**

I am glad to say that some willingly collaborate in the hope that homœopathy will help the sufferer. Others bluntly tell a dying patient to choose between allopathy and homœopathy. A patient living a long distance away has heard of the relief given by homœopathy in a similar case, and may very naturally wish to see if he can be helped. It may be essential that the patient should be seen at intervals by a doctor, and it depends entirely upon the local physician if homœopathic help can be forthcoming or denied.

A former patient, who had been cured of asthma, returned

to me years afterwards with cancer of the rectum. He and his wife were both willing that I should treat him by homœopathy, but great pressure was brought to bear upon them by a surgeon and by the local doctor, who told me over the 'phone, "Talk sense, man, don't you know it is a growth?" He honestly could not understand that any sane physician was willing to treat cancer of the rectum by homœopathic medicines, without rushing the patient to a surgeon. Well, the operation was done and was the reverse of successful, as the surgeon could not do all that he had confidently hoped was possible. Homœopathy would have given the patient a much longer and more comfortable life.

When cure is impossible, great relief may be given to the patient, but full scope is not always afforded to homœopathic medicines. The sufferer may eagerly desire homœopathic treatment, but is often not in a physical condition to see that he gets it. Of course, many families have an unshakable faith in homœopathy, and we know the patient receives the medicine as indicated.

#### **Relief Possible if not Cure**

In one case, uncontrollable vomiting that had gone on for three weeks was stopped in 12 hours. A lady who had had four operations for the worst kind of malignant disease went down to her grave in wonderful bodily peace, while another patient with cancer of the stomach thought of returning to work. The daughter of the famous Dr. Lippe was dying of cancer of the liver, and her father was able to give her wonderful relief. A man with cancer of the hip joint was soon able to come downstairs and even managed to go out for a walk.

I have patients who are in good health years after an operation for cancer and we can only admire the surgical skill which makes such results possible. But every operation is not a success, and a number of growths have reached such a stage that surgical removal cannot be attempted. A surprising number of patients shrink from the very thought of an operation, and this often when relatives have died from cancer. Some of them refuse pointblank and arguments are wasted on them for an operation they will not have,

I have sent a fair number of patients to the surgeon and can say that the results have not been very thrilling, but it was only a very small minority that I could follow up with homœopathic treatment through circumstances beyond my control. When the choice has to be made between surgery and homœopathy, I always leave the decision to the patient and the relatives, and make no attempt to influence them.

I read with great interest in some homœopathic journals, the reports of the discussions between the surgeons attached to hospitals, and the physicians. Generally, the different views were what would have been expected, though some of the surgeons knew what had been done by homœopathy alone. I have already mentioned the late Dr. George Burford, who put down his knife and got many staggering cures of cancer by trusting only to homœopathic medicines. On some occasions, he himself was amazed at the recovery of apparently doomed cases.

#### **Surgery Sometimes Successful**

The surgical argument was that operation does at times result in a cure, which is true. They further said that if homœopathy failed, much valuable time was lost, which is also true. The physicians claimed that by no means every operation is successful, which is undeniable, and some were emphatic that experience had taught them to treat the case without surgery as this held out much more hope of cure. I certainly believe that a number of cases respond far better to homœopathy alone than to surgery plus homœopathy. Much can be said in favour of the arguments from both schools.

One thing I can say. The patient who elects to trust himself to homœopathy must make up his mind to stick to his guns. He will receive criticism from friends and opposition from people whom he scarcely knows, but who will insist on conveying warnings to him. And the homœopath will also have a trying time as it is no light matter to handle such cases. He has to make the most weighty decisions between several medicines, knowing that time is precious.

Even people in good health have their off days, and a

temporary setback or flare-up in the case will make him ask himself in the small hours, "Should I not have sent that case to the surgeon after all?" But the mouths of many opponents are closed when a man, obviously going downhill, is seen to be visibly returning to full health and able to go back to business.

#### Better Results in Acute Cases

I cannot do better than quote the conclusion of an article on cancer by my late friend, who had some excellent cures to his credit. "I believe that all homœopaths will agree that the more actively malignant the growth, the greater is the likelihood of cure because pain forces the patient to seek advice at once, before vitality is sapped and mental and general symptoms cease to exist.

"My general experience is that the patients seek homœopathic advice because of a desire to avoid operation if possible, and my usual but not invariable practice is to treat malignant cases by diet and the homœopathic remedy. I believe it should be invariable; that one has recourse to surgery only through lack of confidence in one's ability to find the right remedy.

"After all, the *raison d'être* of operation is the belief that the growth is the whole of the cancer, whereas homœopathic philosophy teaches us that the growth is secondary to a general constitutional condition, and operation can only therefore remove the local manifestation but cannot touch the underlying cause.

"Cancer is one of the best examples of the constitutional action of disease. Watch its progress in a slow growing type. See how all the lesser ailments which formerly afflicted the patient disappear and, in the later stages, how even mental and general characteristics fade out and the patient becomes merely a cancer cosmos.

"What possible use other than palliation can surgery serve for a disease which takes possession of mind and body and destroys them? Until the remedies have been tried, who will venture a decisive opinion as to what is curable or incurable? In all curable cases, we ought not to have recourse to surgical interference but only to the remedies which accomplish far greater results".



That is a true and dignified summing-up of the position adopted by perhaps a good many homœopaths, but what percentage I cannot say. Others may prefer to send the patient to the surgeon at once when the trouble is discovered.

#### **Diet of Utmost Importance**

It is very important for the patient to take as many foods as possible in the natural state, and that is exactly what a number simply refuse to do. The patient should leave fish, flesh and fowl alone. If he finds the diet irksome, let him remember that he has an irksome disease to combat. I remember an old doctor who was found to have an inoperable cancer of the stomach. He began to live practically on fruit and fruit juices, and was amazed at the improvement in his health by this alone without any other treatment.

He had no homœopathic medicine at all. His general health improved mightily and the local condition was much more bearable. He used to sit on a seat in the park and would preach to anyone who would listen that he had been "living a lie for fifty years", thus summing up his half century of medical practice. I do not know how long he lived, but he was certainly a different man.

I used to have a book which was written in the last century by an old and very wise country doctor near the end of his life. He was the best type of family doctor, who studied his patients—in his day there was time to think when sitting behind a horse—and was not the slave of manufacturing chemists. The book was packed full of wisdom applicable to this day. He noticed 80 years ago how cancer patients benefited from a fruit and vegetable diet, and how they relapsed whenever relatives persuaded them to "keep up their strength". I remember an old naval officer with an internal cancer who lasted a long time in wonderful comfort because he kept to such a strict diet.

#### **Minor Ailments Can Help**

During the treatment of cancer by homœopathic medicine and a strict diet, it sometimes happens that the patient may develop an acute illness, such as a sharp attack of influenza, or diarrhoea or some minor malady. Such an acute condition must

be left alone to run its course. If it causes much discomfort, the homœopath will see it does not exhaust the patient, but if fairly mild, no medicine is given. It can prove of definite value to the patient as the body is getting rid of something and must be allowed to do so. The danger is that if the patient lives at a distance, some interfering busybody will fill him up with aspirin, etc., instead of ringing up his homœopathic doctor for advice.

I read recently of a case of a patient dying of cancer of the prostate. He was very far through and very depressed and because of his profound dejection, the homœopath gave AURUM. The patient's tongue was black and so hard and dry that the pellets rattled on it as if it was a piece of wood, and had to be washed down with water. When the homœopath called next morning, the patient was devouring ham and eggs for breakfast and his last ten days on earth were not clouded with any pain whatsoever. Such is the power of homœopathy.

—*Homœopathy, Jan., '57*

## HAHNEMANN OPENED A DOOR

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How strange that our age should be prepared to accept homœopathy only in practice, not in theory. There are thousands of homœopathic physicians all over the world, Queen Elizabeth and Pope Pius XII consult them—surely the stamp of respectability!—and the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, with its almost exclusively homœopathic therapy, has grown to be the largest animal charity of its kind in existence.

Yes, the health and healing homœopathy offers is accepted thankfully by those fortunate enough to have been introduced to it, but the staggering implications of this form of treatment have been either ignored or suppressed. In particular has Hahnemann's work made little or no impact on the scientific