

HOMOEOPATHY IN CANCER

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In our journeys into the old and new Homoeopathic literature, we shall come across a number of articles and experiences of Homoeopaths about the dread disease "Cancer". Here is one from Dr. Daniel E.S. Coleman of New York. You will find it quite thought provoking.— *S.P.K.*

No one will deny, on reviewing the long list of human ailments, that cancer, the most feared of all diseases, stands first in clinical importance. The physician or surgeon who can bring aid to those afflicted with this dreadful scourge achieves one of the greatest benefits to mankind.

The etiology of cancer is still surrounded with mystery. What causes certain cells to take on the unnatural activity which produces malignant hyperplasia has not been definitely settled. There can be no question that improper food plays a large part in the production of malignant growths. My friend, Mr. Alfred W. McCann, in "starving America." 1912, suggested "that the excessive consumption of meat and white-flour bread was at the root of cancer." Three years later, Dr. L. Duncan Bulkley, the cancer specialist, promulgated the same theory, mentioning the work of Mr. McCann.

In 1917, after a thorough investigation, Dr. Bulkley presented further evidence that the suggestion he received from Mr. McCann seemed true.

Those nations, like New Zealand, which consume large quantities of meat, have a large cancer index (Hislop and Fenwick). On the other hand, nations living on vegetables and undenatured grains are cancer free. Dr. William McGregor, who

lived nine and one half years in British Guinea, never saw a case of cancer, excepting one Papuan, who ate canned Australian meats daily.

The absence of cancer is noted among the Polynesians, Malaynesians, black races of Egypt (Dr. Madden).

Dr. Johnson found only five cases of cancer among the natives of the Islands of Lagos during his fourteen years practice there. All five lived on European diet.

Many more examples could be cited, but discussion of the cause of cancer is not the subject of this paper. You are referred to an article by Mr. McMann appearing in "the Globe" November 5, 1921, to the writings of Dr. Bulkley and Dr. H. Packard, of Boston. The latter, one of our own school, has been for many years a staunch advocate of the necessity of the mineral constituents of the food in the prevention of cancer. His articles are most interesting and instructive.

In the foregoing remarks indicating the dyscrasia produced by faulty diet, I wish to emphasize the necessity of the constitutional remedy. Greater benefit will be derived in our operative cases if we prescribe homoeopathically for them.

Many years ago Schuessler drew our attention to the importance of the mineral constituents of the body.

Trauma, to my mind, is more of an *Exciting* than a *Real* cause of cancer.

The cry of "how can we cure a disease until we know its origin" has always seemed absurd to me, a homoeopathic physician. Many diseases have been cured before their etiology has been discovered, and knowledge of the case of others has not seemed to help the efficiency of traditional therapeutics. Let us learn the cause, if we can, but the lack of such information does not prevent the homoeopathist from rendering proficient aid.

We know that a thorough removal of a localized cancer will cure this expression of a constitutional dyscrasia. When the

lymphatics become involved surgery will not meet with success. In fact does harm.

I have seen scirrhus of the breast cured by the application of heat (the cancer cells die at a lower temperature than the normal) generated between two electrodes. The high frequency current has accomplished much, as has also the X-ray and radium.

The object of this paper is to stimulate confidence in the efficiency of the homoeopathic remedy in the treatment of cancer. I think we often neglect to prescribe for these cases (I am no exception to the rule) because we fear the consequences if some of the more generally accepted modes of treatment (surgery, X-ray, radium, etc.) are not employed.

Many times, however, we are confronted by a patient in whom the disease has progressed beyond surgical aid, or in which X-ray, radium, high frequency thermo-therapy, etc., are not therapeutically practical. Again, there are those who refuse operation. The only means of treatment at our disposal, therefore, is the homoeopathically indicated remedy.

I am cognizant of the difficulty in proving that a growth, which we have caused to disappear, was really cancer. Other cases in which we have produced results admit of no diagnostic doubt.

I present a few cases of each.

(11) Case I

Female, age 37. Lump the size of a marble under left arm. Discovered eight months before appearing for treatment. Cured in six months by *Phytolacca 3x*, followed by *Conium 3x* in repeated doses.

(12) Case II

Female, age 45. Hard lump in left breast of two years duration. Disappeared in less than two months under *Natrum*

Mur. 30x repeated four times daily. The constitutional symptoms led to the choice of remedy. Melancholy, depressed, trembling of the limbs, fluttering in epigastrium, awaking suddenly at night and feels as if suffocating, etc. In somewhat over a year the lump returned. Conium 3x followed by Phytolacca 3x cured completely in three weeks.

(13) Case III

Female, age 52. Lump in breast characterized by hardness, Cured by Conium 3d.

(14) Case IV

Female, age 41. History of a blow on the left breast, followed by indurated lumps. Cured in three weeks by Conium 3d.

These are a few examples of the breast cases appearing from time to time in my practice, and which have yielded to the homoeopathically indicated remedy.

I know that there is no proof that such were cancer. No positive diagnosis could be established. Cases like these often go to the operating table and homoeopathy has served to prevent this. On September 6th a young lady appeared at my office ; her own doctor was out of town and she feared to consult a surgeon friend of the "Old school". An operation was dreaded. I advised that she give the remedy a chance, and consented to prescribe until the return of her own physician, a most excellent prescriber. She presented a hard lump the size of a small plum in the right breast. There was considerable pain of a spreading character. I gave her Conium 30th four times daily. Two weeks after her condition was as follows : the pain ceased after taking the remedy one day, and the lump has grown smaller. She is now under the care of her own doctor and I expect her to continue to improve. Undoubtedly this case was benign. She was extremely apprehensive. Her father died of duodenal carcinoma.

A positive diagnosis of malignancy was made in the following cases :

(15) Case I

Female, age 60. June 18, 1913. Hard swelling in left breast with retraction of the nipple. Exudation of thin fluid. R Conium 3d, four times daily. Continued improvement resulted, the lump diminished in size and the lymphatics did not become involved. The remedy was discontinued and resumed as indicated. At the end of six months the growth was greatly reduced in size. Her symptoms then indicated Phytolacca. Ten drops of the tincture was mixed in half glass of water and two teaspoonfuls given four times daily. In six weeks the tumor had grown much smaller but I detected the appearance of another. Perhaps I did not discover this before because of the swelling. I received her case and prescribed Iodine tincture, five drops in quarter glass of water, two teaspoonfuls four times daily. A profuse discharge resulted with an almost complete disappearance of the growth. The discharge ceased and she gained ten pounds. This condition of apparent cure would be interrupted by slight relapses. These were controlled by Conium 2x. Baryta carb. 2x and Kali iod 2x ; given at different times according to indications. On July 22, 1920, I prescribed Conium 30th with marked success. All this time she refused operation which I had advised.

I did not see her for sometime. In the interval she yielded to the pressure of friends and consulted a well-known "Old school" surgeon. He advised an immediate operation and predicted dreadful things if it were put off for even a week. She called upon me for advice. There had been no change since her last visit. She having consented to an operation, I engaged a room at a hospital and made preparations to operate. It seemed, however, that her husband had concluded all arrangements for an immediate operation by the hasty "Old school" surgeon and he removed what remained of the original growth. A complete dissection was made. It proved to be malignant.

It would seem that the indicated remedy had been able to cause marked improvement for seven years and only ceased when she discontinued treatment. Her general health had always been benefited by the medication. If treatment had been continued uninterruptedly, might not a complete cure have resulted without an operation? There has been no return of the trouble to date.

(16) Case II

Female, age 65. Indurated tumour, the size of a small hen's egg, involving the nipple. This growth was freely movable. Following the traditional treatment, I advised that she let me operate. On May 19, 1922, I made a rapid enucleation, the weakness of her heart preventing a complete dissection and removal of the pectoral muscles. The nodes of the axilla were not involved, however. The microscope proved the tumour a scirrhus.

Almost as rapidly as the heads of the seven-headed Lernean hydra reappeared after being served by Hercules, another growth manifested itself in close proximity to the situation of the first. Her condition counter-indicated a radical operation and no results could be anticipated from another enucleation. I prescribed *Conium 3d* in repeated doses on the characteristic indication of *Stony Hardness*. The tumour disappeared rapidly.

That this was a senile degeneration cannot be accepted as true. If such were the case, why did not the original scirrhus degenerate?

On August 3rd she called at my office suffering from an acute disorder. This was about one year and two months after the operation. No medicine had been taken for many months. I examined her breast. The nipple was slightly enlarged. I prescribed *Conium*, but she neglected to take the remedy. On October 2nd I was called to treat her for indigestion. After she recovered from this trouble I prescribed *Phytolacca 6th* four times daily. The *purplish* colour of the small induration about the nipple led to the choice of remedy. I await the result with interest.

(17) Case III

Female, age 72. September 21, she appeared at my office suffering from an inoperable mammary carcinoma of six years duration. She had been under treatment with a fine homoeopathic prescriber. The tumour was the size of an orange, indurated, and showed signs of breaking down. Conium 3d stopped the extremely sharp, shooting pains. Later, haemorrhages appeared, some very profuse. Millefolium tincture, ten drops in half glass of water, teaspoonful every five minutes controlled them completely. The blood would drop after the first dose, and ceased entirely after the second. Sloughing then developed. The characteristic odour was intolerable. External deodorants (used by the family) proved valueless. Kreosotum 6th, later 3x, prescribed on the indications, *ulceration with thin discharge and bluish colour of the parts*, completely removed odour and checked the ulceration.

The general health of the patient would improve after each prescription. One winter she had a most profuse haemorrhage, brought on by a fit of coughing. *Miliefolium* stopped the haemorrhage, and China cured the weakness following.

Almost to the end she showed no cachexia. The last few weeks of her life were spent in a cancer hospital. They were surprised at the results of the treatment, especially the ability of Millefolium in controlling haemorrhage. She died at over eighty-two. This was fifteen years from the time that the growth was first discovered.

(18) Case IV

Female suffering from cancer of the liver was declining rapidly under "Old school" treatment. I prescribed Natrum mur 30th on the characteristic indications of great weakness, emaciation, hunger, thirst, constipation, etc.. She gained weight and improved so much that her family thought that she would recover. This continued several months. She then began to decline. Her son, an allopathic physician, desired her to see some prominent surgeons. No operation could be performed and

she finally died under their care. Homoeopathy alone was capable of improving for a time such a hopelessly incurable patient.

I just returned from visiting another liver case whose general condition is being improved by *Hydrastis* 3x prescribed on the character of the mucous discharge from the throat and nose.

(19) Case V. *Female, age about 70.* Severe lancinating pain in the left hypochondrium with profuse passage of bright red blood from the rectum. The pain, which was of a most violent character, came on independent of motion. I could make out a nodular mass along the descending colon. *Kali carb* 30th controlled both pain and bleeding.

This lady has the habit of rotating among three physicians. We are all firm believers in the efficiency of the homoeopathic remedy. She is therefore always under homoeopathic treatment. I saw her yesterday. She seems to be doing nicely, says she is free from pain and haemorrhage.

The power of the indicated remedy to relieve the pain in this phase of the disease is illustrated in this patient.

(20) Case VI. *Cancer of face.* Morphine no longer controlled the intense burning pain. This pain was relieved by heat. *Arsenicum album* brought prompt and efficient relief which lasted to the end.

I do not claim that we can always relieve the pain without narcosis, but in a large number of cases this can be accomplished.

(21) Case VII

Female, age 65. Cancer of liver. Nodular mass could be felt in abdomen. She had been receiving large doses of Codeine, with unpleasant results, from her physician. He was not a homoeopath. I prescribed *Chelidonium* tincture, seven drops in half glass of water, teaspoonful in repeated doses. This relieved the pain completely without the use of Codeine.

[*Courtesy* : The Homoeopathic Recorder, June 1924]

