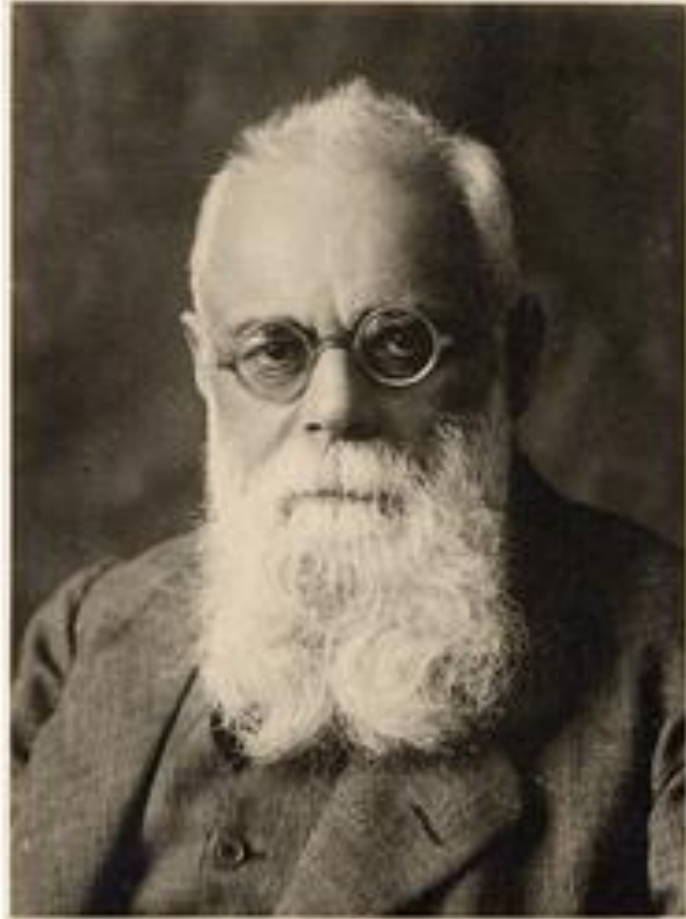


Emil Schlegel



Emil Schlegel (1852-1934)

1912 - Cancer

“The surgical treatment of cancer, especially when it is perceived early and can be removed, is matter of technique, and does not alter the organic processes of the body, which, retaining the same constitutional condition that existed before the operation, favor the development of the same sort of sickness again. This fact is evident in even a moderate experience with such cases. Internal medical treatment, on the other hand, administered before the cancer is touched, tends to preserve the coordinated activities under the vital force of the organism, and the disorder which develops the sarcoma is eradicated by the internal change, and a cure results. This is the practical idea to be foreseen by the practitioner of Homoeopathy.

For the past thirty years, I have used every opportunity to note the experiences and collect evidence of the course of these cases following operation, and that following internal treatment. I am satisfied of the superiority of the latter treatment for the majority of cases. Wherever my efforts have been directed to bring possible relief or cure to the sufferer from cancer, I have invariably relied on the internal treatment, selecting the medicine indicated by the constitutional symptoms.

Naturally, I looked for evidence from the cases of my professional brethren in this line; but they were, for the most part, cautious and the evidence rather meager. Yet two names have stood out prominently to encourage me, because these two men took the same independent course, with the same aim. In 1893, in my “Internal Cures,” I tried to bring out this principle for Internal Treatment of Cancer, and in the same year the venerable Burnett published “The Curability of Cancer,” and in 1889 appeared the work of the genial Cooper, entitled “Cancer and Cancer Symptoms.” To these two stars I am indebted for much encouragement and stimulus, from their methods and their publications. In later times, my position has been further fortified by the work of our honored John H. Clarke (“The Cure of Tumors,” 1908) and the publications of Le Hunt Cooper.

Everywhere I see difficult cancer cases cured or relieved and life extended many years. Many cases have been reported also in American literature, and not the least among them all am I indebted for the contributions from my own native land. I desire to present, briefly, the account of the theory and practical results of my studies.

First, I would note that from isolated cases but slight evidence is advanced, and scarcely more from larger statistics. Each case presents dubious points for attack, as do also the statistics. Whether a physician treats cancer internally or not depends on his freedom, his courage, and his conviction of its feasibility. A man must take into consideration the courage necessary to undertake the investigation, and the joy and pleasure of such cures. These require a comprehension of the principles, which is increased by the investigation and the results themselves. These appear frequently, not just where you would expect to find them, but, on the other hand, often fall, as does ripe fruit, unexpectedly into your lap.

If you ask if I have had uniformly good results, I must answer: “Pretty good; good enough to encourage to further zeal, and poor enough to stimulate me to strive for increased light and improved methods.”

Technically, the point of departure in cancer investigation is what is known as “the cell.” I refer to the malignant sarcoma, and include, therefore, not only the atypical epithelial form, but also the connective tissue and bone-tissue formations, or osteo-sarcoma.

The original, purely histological differentiation proved, in relation to time, unsatisfactory, as the chemical differences in the tumor cells and normal tissue cells were easily noted, and it was found that true carcinoma, after several generations, develops into sarcoma, and these prove equally fatal. We must recognize, then, that biologically both forms are important.

It has also been proved that these two forms of atypical epithelial cell have a peculiar variable significance; in one case proving rapidly fatal, and, in another case, slowly degenerating during a lingering life period, though the tumor nucleus presents histologically the same formation. This is the clinical evidence. It is also clear that the clinical history of many tumors varies distinctly, in defiance of their histological agreement. As the events and risks to human life depend so much upon these clinical phases, in the light of this knowledge, definite conclusions in the carcinoma problem have been necessarily postponed.

No longer can the essential factor be determined by the histological character, but must be sought further back in the relation of tumor and the entire organism. That such relation exists facts have long since proved, and it has more recently been emphasized in directing attention to the changes that appear in the lactation period. The tissue of the glands increased during this period is reabsorbed when the original form is restored, after the cessation of lactation. The local character of the tumor, under these circumstances, also loses significance, biologically considered.

When such facts are proved, the path is freely open for the internal treatment of cancer.

We observe that, under the influence of Arsenic, Carbo an., and other chemical poisons, cancerous enlargements develop after poisonous doses have had their effect in the organism. These also promote the disappearance of cancer forms, when the organisms correspond to the entire image.

There are also to be considered those outside influences favoring the development of cancer. We must not be surprised when, by such influences, the cancer disposition is again eradicated. Here is the basis for a comprehension of the homoeopathic treatment.

The medicine is the cause of disturbances and, again, the means of cure. Thus we observe that disorder (disease) is no longer accidental, but has a basis in law: is governed by law.

Here let us recognize a combination of influences. In medical science, we find that disorder has a two-fold cause. For instance, in toothache, the cause of the disturbance is not only in the tooth but also in the organism, which suffers from the changes of pregnancy or from injurious effects of cold. The cause of consumption is not only the bacilli, but also in the detrimental habits of the patient, or deterioration in the respiratory tract, or the ingestion of unwholesome food.

The cause of cancer lies in the advanced age of the sufferer, or in a weakness of the organism through previous syphilis or tubercular infection. It may also be from an injury to the skin due to too-strong light attraction, or through the use of Roentgen rays, or through some previously prepared naevus pigmentosus.

The occasions of disorder are often from various influences, and the organism contributes a necessary predisposition in its various tissues and organs where the disorder is manifested. When such conditions are perceived, it is the duty of the physician to investigate, remove the causes, and thereby prevent the development of disorder. In phthisis, we correct all life conditions of the patient, and the bacilli thereby become inactive. It is simply common sense to attend to hygiene, and through that much is accomplished.

In cancer, we certainly could obtain many cures if we could only rejuvenate the organism. I have recently read reports published in the *Berliner Zeitschrift*, which demonstrate that excessive exercise, consumption of strength and light baths favor cancer, and have since had some new experiences in this particular. It is clear that the organism that, in the course of a lifetime, can expend a certain amount of energies and make use of them, can do this in slower or faster tempo. Time is only a form in which cures are effected. Time alone does not make age, but age is effected through that which is happening through time. If very much should

happen, then aging ensues more rapidly. I think that in our times much more happens than formerly, as concerns mankind.

The attraction of light is one of the foremost and strongest life attractions, and in the cities especially is it very largely increased. According to Dr. Duesing, the effect of light in the pigment cells of the skin accumulates energies which operate largely upon the cell plasma, and by superficial, unprotected exposure of the pigment to light, an ugly tumor can be relieved. Also, in the eye, absorption of light is not a small factor, and a strong attraction is exerted by the pigment.

So, loaded cells in the tissues can occasion a serious stimulation, when once the susceptible age is reached and other predisposing causes cooperate.

According to Schuecking, the nature of cancer consists in the interference in the balanced relation of nucleus and plasm in the cells. The nucleus takes the attraction of the outer world. It is the carrier of the animal susceptibility. The plasm is the conservative element, and this we must strengthen. The animal consumption and its attraction we must diminish, to avoid cancer. The attraction of the light permits a very essential expenditure of animal force. I think that such a theory might explain the increasing death-rate from cancer at the present time. Cancer death-rate has increased about in proportion to the influence of light attraction upon mankind.

At the same time, this theory has furnished some important explanations of medicinal results. Cancer appears as the definite result of the condition of the organism, a manifestation of its disorder. Medicines also affect the entire organism, affecting its various systems as revealed by their influence on the life force, when proved according to Hahnemann's directions.

Hence, though there may be many cooperative influences acknowledged as predisposing to cancerous formation, there may be said to be undoubtedly one special cause in true cancer cases, distinguished from all others, even though it be a parasite, though there is slight claim for this in cancer.

In the case of cancer, we have a practical problem to be solved: a natural organism, whose every process and all symptoms develop in conformance to law: The life force, here in conflict with a foreign power. The divergence from normal life reveals the influence of a foreign poison manifested by numerous symptoms. All noxious influences are manifested to the perception in the symptom image, these symptoms indicating the character and force of the disorder.

To the medical art, the problem of eradicating these disturbers of the life force and restoring order resembles the siege of a fortress, to be overpowered and won by *superior force*. The simile includes the use of the remedies selected according to the law of similars. Their *superiority of power* consists in their dynamization by our attenuation.

Our simile would be incomplete did we not take cognizance of the friendly power held prisoner within the fortress by the hostile power besieged. When the besieging power approaches, the organism, previously under the control of the disorder influence, acts promptly, and the enemy thus is between two fires.

This is the theory, in general, of the action in homoeopathic treatment: The strong lines of disorder are opposed by the dynamis of the drug, parallel but superior to it in action - a modern explanation of the Law of Similars. The poison of the remedy annihilates the disease force and life proceeds untrammelled. Nature herself imposes this necessity.

Everywhere are the opposing forces, represented by soldiers, armies, ships and, as Paracelsus has said, "cunning against cunning;" both fiend against fiend in the harness; both hot, and using similar weapons. Thus, also, must the victory over cancer be won. Nature's powers are

measured against each other, in accordance with Nature's laws, and each case is a separate, individual problem presented to the physician's skill.

It is not to be expected that it will be possible to cure with the same manifold phases appearing in cancer cases without some injury, when the various characteristics are so varied. Not power, but skill, caution and Providence must guide us, and the natural phenomena must be given due consideration, and the prescription not based upon the abstract, i.e., the bare diagnosis.

It is not probable that the treatment could be outlined for the complete cure of a disorder such as cancer, which is the outcome of long continued disorder in the system, as Nature's symptoms would probably change in the course of time, with the development of the case, and probably new and different characteristics appear.

But it is possible to recognize that certain single remedies, relating in nature to the cancer constitution will, in large measure, prove curative or remove the troublesome symptoms, e.g. Argentum nitricum, Arsenic, Carbo an., Condurango, Conium, Ornithogalum, Phosphorus. So long as you can work with only one remedy, do so. It is possible that cancer may present occasionally symptoms that are less frequently met, for which Arnica, Calendula, Crocus, Graphites, Lycopodium, Mercury, Naja, Nitric Acid or Thuja may be needed.

A remedy that has proved useful in a single case is as valuable as though it had been useful in many cases. It is probable that the nosodes of such miasms as are known to favor the development of cancer may be beneficial, through their symptom similarity: Tuberculinum, Syphilinum, Cancroin and Carcinomin, these being warranted by their relation to the beginning of the disorder.

Cures can be expected from these various remedies when these conform to the laws, though at first they belonged only to a small circle of medical fellowship through their experimental labors. In the domain of cancer, we can do much service to make known these laws, and thus conquer the world."

(Emil Schlegel, Physician of Tübingen, Germany, Cancer, The Homoeopathician vol. 1, No. 2, February 1912, p. 97-100. Presented at the London Congress for Homoeopathy, July, 1911.)