
Human infections with the yeast-like organism, *Torula histolytica*, have presented difficult problems of diagnosis not only as to the nature of lesions of the skin, lungs, and lymph nodes, but also as to the differentiation between types of chronic and subacute meningitis, and between possible types of brain tumors. As the authors state: "The slow course, the occurrence of headache, the signs of intracranial pressure in many cases of torulosis have suggested the diagnosis of intracranial tumour." This relation of the organism to the formation of tumors is reflected in one of the specific names (*neoformans*) which have been given to it. It is now well known, however, that while the organism produces inflammatory and necrotic granulomas, it is not carcinogenic.

As the authors saw 13 cases of torulosis in Australia during the 8 year period of 1936 to 1944, and as cases have been reported from many parts of the world, they believe that the disease should no longer be considered rare. On the other hand, as fewer than 150 cases have been reported since 1895, when Busse and Buske reported a case which became known as the type case of European blastomycosis and American "torula meningitis," examples of the disease still excite interest as rarities. Beyond interest in the unusual, however, "the subject of torulosis, human and experimental, should be of interest," as the authors point out, "not only to the clinician, but to the pathologist and bacteriologist." Human infections present difficult problems of diagnosis in the differentiation between types of chronic or subacute meningitis, particularly in adults, and between possible types of brain tumor. The characteristics of the pathogenic yeast-like organism which causes the disease are still incompletely known. Relatively little is known about the mode of infection and the epidemiology of the disease.

The authors describe in considerable detail the 13 cases which they observed. For the convenience of the reader, who may wish to select features which are of particular interest to him, the subject is divided into the following main sections: historical introduction, case reports, torulosis of various systems, microbiology of *torula histolytica*, experimental torulosis, pathology of torulosis, laboratory diagnosis of torulosis, sources and routes of infection in torulosis, treatment of torulosis, summary, conclusions, and a bibliography of 134 references. There is a good index. The monograph is a valuable contribution to knowledge of torulosis.

S. Bayne-Jones

A.A.A.S. RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON CANCER. A Conference of Papers and Discussions Presented at the Summer Meeting of the Section on Chemistry of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Gibson Island, Maryland, July 31-August 4, 1944. Edited by Forest Ray Moulton. Washington, D. C.: American Association for the Advancement of Science. 1945, x + 338 pages, with illustrations and tables. Price $4.00 to members of A.A.A.S., $4.50 to others.

As indicated in the title this volume is a record of the papers presented and edited reports of the oral discussions they stimulated at the 1944 A.A.A.S.-Gibson Island Research Conference on Cancer. There were 5 general chemical or biochemical aspects of cancer research represented on the program and incorporated in this volume: I. The Virus Approach, 6 principal papers, 4 supplementary notes, and the discussion (107 pages). II. Carcinogenesis, 6 principal papers and the discussion (62 pages). III. Enzymes, 5 principal papers and the discussion (83 pages). IV. Diet, 2 principal papers, 1 note, and the discussion (38 pages). V. Chemotherapy, 4 principal papers, 3 notes, and the discussion (43 pages). There were 42 contributors to the principal papers, 8 to the notes, and about 20 to edited oral discussions. The volume is generously illustrated and contains comprehensive references to the literature.

S. Bayne-Jones


In this volume there have been reproduced by the Replika Press 39 reports of clinical and experimental investigations of cancer as they were printed in a number of medical and scientific journals in England and in the United States during the years 1941 and 1942. The papers may be divided into three groups: I. Cancer surgery—1 paper on gastrectomy for gastric cancer. II. Cancer and radiation—18 papers on clinical, physical, and physiological studies of radiation. III. Cancer research—20 papers by the workers in the Chester Beatty Research Institute, with particular emphasis on chemical aspects of carcinogenesis.

The volume is notable for its content of important papers reporting further developments along the lines of fundamental research which have for many years been characteristic of the Chester Beatty Research Institute under the direction of Professor E. L. Kennaway. It is also a fine example of the continuation of British scientific productivity during the war.

Most of these papers have been abstracted individually in earlier issues of Cancer Research.

Ralph G. Meader

S. Bayne-Jones


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