

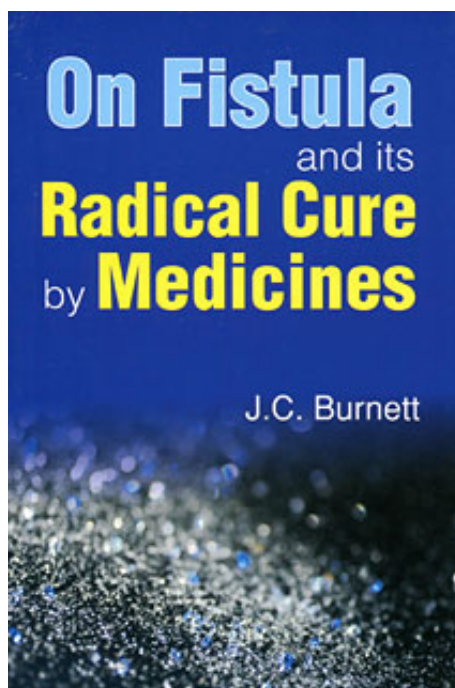
James Compton Burnett

On Fistula and its Radical Cure by Medicines

Leseprobe

[On Fistula and its Radical Cure by Medicines](#)

von [James Compton Burnett](#)



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SIMPLE FISTULA

The most simple form, however, in which fistula comes before one is where the subjects are seemingly in good health, and in whom the whole thing can be cured by medicines in two or three months. Thus a gentleman of some forty-six years of age, hale and hearty to all appearance consulted me for fistula-in-ano that had plagued him for a number of months. An operation had been decided upon, and assented to by the gentleman, but as he was not exactly ill, and was, moreover, over head and ears in big affairs, he constantly put it off.

' It never occurred to him even that medicines were any good in such cases; his own surgeon said they were not and that was enough. The foul discharge was the only thing that really inconvenienced him, with a certain amount of local irritation, and a little blood once in a while but it did not heal, and one day he met with a gentleman, an old friend of his own, and whom I had cured of severe fistula several years previously; the result was that he came to me. Under *Hydrastis canadensis* he got quite well in a little less than two months. No local application of any kind was used. He was more pleased at his rapid cure as he was about to marry at the time, and a fistula is not desirable under such circumstances.

I am in a little doubt as to the origin of the primary morbid element in the case. It was certainly not constitutional to him and I am inclined to think it was a local affair acquired *in der wilden Ehe*, and in this

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particular case, no doubt, an operation with antiseptic dressings would have cured him quite as well as my treatment, though not so pleasantly. Surgeons seem to think there is a kind of spartan virtue in having one's fistula operated upon. I cannot quite see it in that light myself.

HEPATIC FISTULA

I may not, perhaps, be justified in designating the kind of fistula I here refer to as *hepatic*, but at any rate one meets with certain people with fistula that have enlarged livers as concomitants, and our common hepatics readily cure them. *Chelidonium majus*, *Carduus marianus*, *Myrica cerifera* and *Berberis vulgaris* (as the case may be), cure the liver and at the same time the fistula. They are simple and probably either not constitutional at all, or only in a very slight degree and they do not readily recur. I do not regard them as particularly important, and therefore will not dwell upon them. I have sometimes thought they may be due to high living and want of exercise. There may also be a slight strumous taint at the bottom of them.

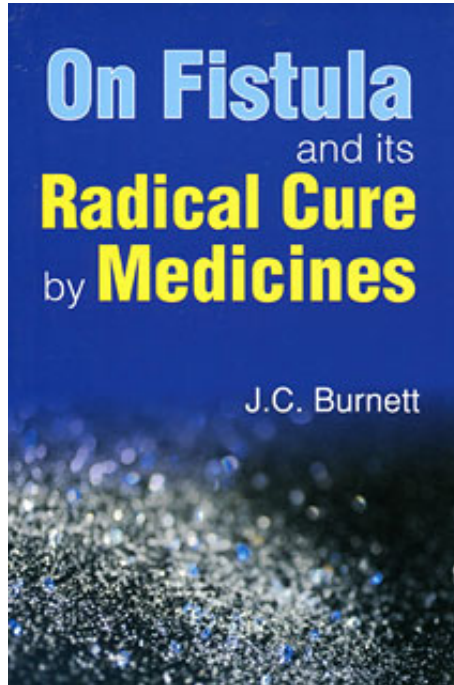
CIRCUMANAL ABSCESS

This is the common origin of fistula, and its treatment is

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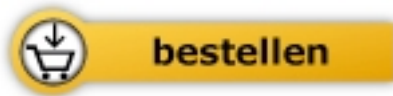
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