

On Nuclear divisions in Malignant tumours

a reply to Prof. v. Hansemann, by J. B. Farmer.

In the Biologische Centralblatt of March. 1, 1904. Prof. v. Hansemann complains that justice has not been done to the views already published by him, in the course of a preliminary note by Mss^{rs} Moore and Walker and myself on „böartige Geschwülste“.

Prof. v. Hansemann seems to lie under a misconception as to the scope of the work in this paper. Our investigations have led us to the conclusion that a reduction-division similar in character to that known as heterotype in animals and Plants occurs in the cells of malignant growths. This is followed by homotype, and subsequently by more irregular mitoses. We regard the essential change that occurs when a cell takes upon itself the characters leading to the formation of a malignant growth as involving a transformation of somatic into reproductive or generative cells which sooner or later go through the reduction divisions. The pathological results attendant on such a transformation are due to the uncoordinated relations thus instituted. Now Prof. v. Hansemann has given quite another explanation of the processes. „Erstens durch asymmetrische Mitosen und zweitens durch Zugrundegehen einzelner Chromosomen.“ The essential difference between his view and our own may be expressed shortly by saying that we regard the malignant tissue as having arisen in a manner quite comparable with that in which normal reproductive cells arise, whilst Prof. v. Hansemann ascribes the differences in nuclear characters to something foreign to the ordinary cell processes in the individual affected.

The difference between us is a fundamental one.

As our paper was only of the nature of a preliminary communication (it is so stated in the text), it would have been obviously out of place to have discussed the views advanced by Prof. v. Hansemann as well as of others whose opinions also are divergent from those which we have been led to adopt. We hope however in a memoir, now in preparation, to compare fully the results of others with our own. In the meantime we do not propose to engage further in purely controversial correspondence. [42]

O. Maas. Einführung in die experimentelle Entwicklungsgeschichte (Entwicklungsmechanik).

Das unter obigem Titel bei Bergmann in Wiesbaden erschienene Buch beabsichtigt, wie sein Titel angibt, eine Einführung in die Probleme der experimentellen Entwicklungsgeschichte zu sein. Man sieht dem Buch an, dass es aus praktischen Bedürfnissen heraus entstanden ist. Es ist, wie der Verfasser sagt, aus Vorlesungen hervorgegangen, die vor Anfängern gehalten wurden und für einen derartigen Leserkreis ist es wohl auch in erster Linie bestimmt. Man wird anerkennen müssen, dass der Verfasser dieser Aufgabe in hohem Maße gerecht wird. Er beschränkt sich durchaus auf das Tatsächliche und vermeidet überflüssiges Theoreti-

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