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ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF TUMORS.*

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Once it was established by histological studies that the different forms of neoplasms arise from different tissues, it became possible to group tumors according to their origin. Once again, when, through the observations of the embryologists, it was recognized that the tissues could be grouped according to their origin from the primitive cell layers, it became possible to group tumors in the same way. This was done more especially by Waldeyer, and we obtained thus a classification of tumors into those of mesoblastic origin and those of epiblastic and hypoblastic derivation, the tumors derived from the two latter cell layers being grouped together, for it was soon found that they were of the same general type.

Here was a broad and very important generalization, and, what is more, in the then stage of histological and embryological knowledge, it appeared not only to be founded on a sure and scientific basis, but to fulfil to the fullest the needs of the worker. For it appeared to separate two sharply differentiated orders of tumors—those of connective tissue origin and connective tissue type from those of epithelial and glandular origin and epithelial and glandular type. So that for long years this distinction remained dominant; even to-day, in at least one text-book published during the last twelve months, that by Dr. Nicholas Senn, this is given as the acceptable classification.

It is, however, scarcely necessary to say that, with increasing knowledge, many cases were discovered which did not fit

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