

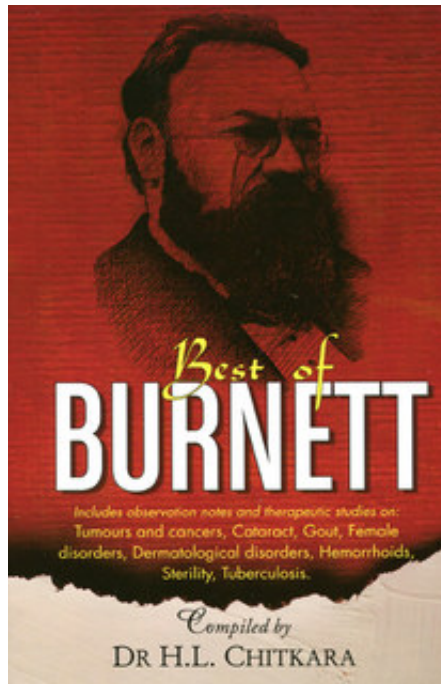
# H. L. Chitkara Best of Burnett

Leseprobe

[Best of Burnett](#)

von [H. L. Chitkara](#)

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## Preface

The great thing about Burnett is that he is eminently readable and that his books are still around, in India.

Reasonably small in size and on various topics, these can be read for pleasure and profit. You read one, and would like to read another. I personally found that all the Burnett's titles were not available all the time, and one had to wait for reprinting of one or the other. I thought bringing them together in one place would ensure their availability, and lend them a longer lease of life. Another thing which I concluded was that the text material of the books was made up of three components, namely, his observations; notes on medicines and therapeutics; and narratives of case-reports. These could well be divided into 3 parts.

These two considerations are the reason for bringing out this new compilation and in the present form.

From a distance of about a 100 years, and in the absence of a good homoeopathic library, it was very difficult to piece together an account of Burnett's life and work. Taking a cue from the list of references appended to an article written by Francis Treuherz, I wrote to him for help. He responded by sending a copy of the biography of Dr Burnett's daughter, entitled *Ivy When Young — The Early Life of I. Compton Burnett* (1884-1919). This Volume One of a two part biography written by Hilary Spurling was first published in 1974, the copy lent me was a revised edition, published in 1983 by Allison Busby, London. Ivy Compton Burnett deserved a biography because she became a renowned novelist of her time and was royally honoured with the title of Dame. This book born out of painstaking research and made up of a number of bits of authentic information gives the genealogical tree of the Burnetts, about 3 to 4 generations back, and devotes whole chapters on Ivys parents and their family. It is from this volume that I have drawn all the factual details, which in some points are corrections even on Dr Clarkes work, the *Life and Work of Dr James Compton-Burnett*, now out of print. Spurling's biography of I. Compton Burnett makes delightful reading and gives a very vivid and often panoramic account of the times and background including the medical *milieu* in which Dr Burnett lived. In fact, this biographer has gone so far as to carefully analyse the make-up of some of the characters in Ivy's novels, which it is thought, gives clue to some of the characteristics of members of Ivy's intimate circle, including her parents.

The short write-up on the factual details of Dr Burnett's life presented in this work is quite bare and stark as compared to the colourful and lively

accounts written by Spurling, the reading of which I recommend strangly to the readers if they are interested to delve deeper.

I have tried to collect all the available Burnett's titles for this compilation. The materia medica notes and case-reports (Parts II and III of this compilation) are almost complete reproductions from originals but selections of observations (as per my personal perceptions and evaluation) are considerably trimmed versions of his elaborate *obiter dicta*.

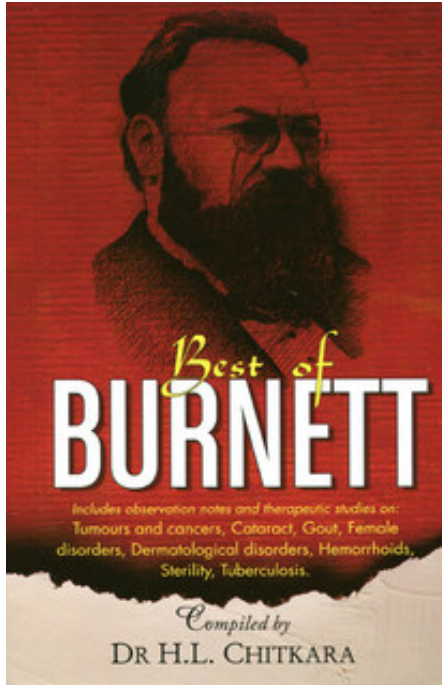
The German and French portions (not accompanied by English translation) from Burnett's writings have been left out for the purpose of the present work.

I am greatly indebted to Francis Treuherz, editor of *The Homeopath* for his voluntarily lending me his personal copy of Ivy Burnett's biography, and to its author and publishers for my having made use of the facts recorded therein.

I am grateful to my friend BP Rao who stood by me through all the mishaps, which dogged the process of typesetting. It was he who helped in the retrieval and the reconstruction of the manuscript resulting from virus damage and loss of mss files as also in seeing the proofs. Again he very thoughtfully made out an *Index of the Remedies* as also *Indices to the sub-entries*, a sort of detailed *contents*, subjoined before the main text. The typesetters are to be congratulated for their patience in the face of the hinderances, and for having finally completed their part of the work over a period of two years.

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