

months old, in very poor condition; there was slight leucocytosis, the red corpuscles were down to 1,800,000, and hæmoglobin to 45 per cent. The extirpated spleen weighed over a pound. Success was brilliant; in nine months the body-weight had doubled itself. Wolff showed a similar case operated on two years previously. This child also was in perfect condition.

E. A.

MEDICINE.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF DRs. FINLEY, LAFLEUR, HAMILTON, AND HOWARD.

M. ADLER. "The Question of the White and Dark Meats as Food." (Zur Frage über den Gehalt extractiver Stoffe des dunklen und weissen Fleisches). *Berl. K. Wochen.*, No. 8, 1908.

Since the work of Offer and Rosenquist, published in 1899, it has been considered as correct that there existed little if any difference between the effects of the white and dark meats when given in the nourishment of patients.

For many years scientific consideration has been given to the meat bases—fleischbasen—and especially so since the writings of Hofmann in 1869, who found in severe cases of nephritis a great diminution in the kreatin in excretion, has the view been held that meat food in general, and especially the meat extracts should be forbidden in order to prevent an accentuation of them in the system with an overloading of the blood with kreatinin.

This question gained significance when a knowledge of the uric acid synthesis in the body was acquired and its source discovered in the change undergone by nuclein and the Xanthin bodies.

A study of the metabolism of nucleins shows that by destruction of the elements of the cell an equivalent quantity of purin body is formed, which one calls endogenous purin: by "exogenous purin" one understands that purin body formed out of the nuclein containing substance in the food. Either or both these bodies require to be considered or reckoned with—as well these as those precipitated by oxidation, the oxypurin bodies, hypoxanthin xanthin—and as quickly and as thoroughly as possible to be eliminated.

The idea that by retention of any waste products the organism suffers, and of the organs of excretion the kidney in particular, must be admitted, and Gaucher was the first in 1886 to demonstrate by experiment the pathological influence or effects upon the kidney brought about by hypoxanthin injections.