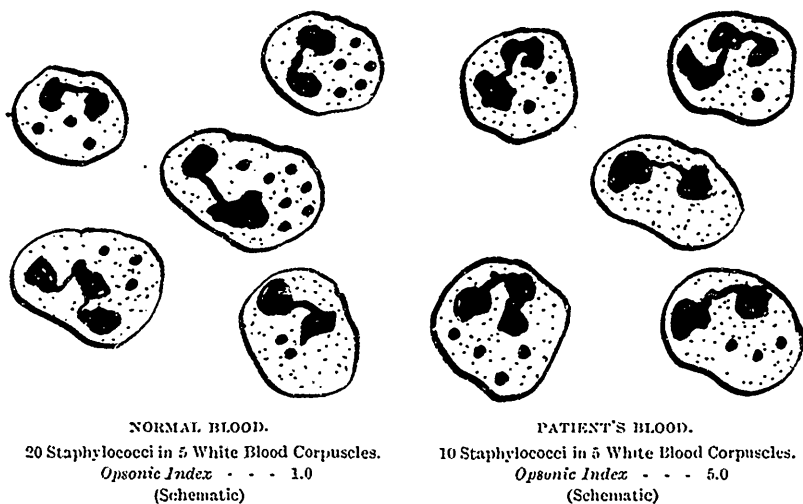


Latin dictionaries we found the word *opsono*. Opsono means, "I prepare for dinner"; it must be sharply distinguished from an almost identical word which means, "I advertise or proclaim with a trumpet." These substances that prepare for ingestion are what I wish to speak of as *opsonins*. It was a question at the same time whether the white blood corpuscles or the opsonin in the blood was the more important agent. In order to answer this question we took a patient who was very badly infected with the tubercle bacillus, and we contrasted the blood of this patient with what we call "pool." Now "pool" in our laboratory language means the pool of the blood of all the normal men in the laboratory. Everybody when he come into the laboratory bleeds himself: he sticks a needle into his finger and draws blood off



and contributes his few drops to those of his fellow workers. So pool is made and no man who is not normal may contribute to pool. When we catch a tubercular man contributing to pool he has such a bad time he never comes near us again. With our pool blood as control we contrasted the blood of this highly infected tubercular patient of whom I spoke, and we investigated the question as to whether the patient's white blood corpuscles or the opsonins in his blood were deficient. Without wearying you with the details of this experiment I will ask you to accept the results. We found that the white blood corpuscles of our patient were just as active in phagocytosis as were our own normal white corpuscles, but that the patient's