

the bloodvessels, it has been said to be the especial production of the arteries, while that of the serous fluid was said to be that of the veins, but in the capillaries I scarcely think that such a distinction can hold—escaping into the areola tissue according to the state of its plasticity it flows onwards and completely fills its meshes, surrounds each element of the several structures in close contact as fluid mortar poured in between the stones—it coagulates and becomes more or less firm—or it transudes the basement membrane and is poured into the cavity of the joint, unfit for the nourishment of the epithelial cells, from its increased density; it covers the serous membrane with a plastic material that soon becomes firm—the layers of epithelial cells, have been shed, and under the false membrane are seldom renewed, so that the coagulated fibrine comes in immediate contact with that structure the basement membrane; or had there been previously considerable serum effused into the joint, this may be seen floating in it, in the shape of flocculent masses; the serum may afterwards or at least its more fluid parts have been absorbed, leaving the denser material behind. Such however appears not to be the case, should the plastic material pervade the whole structure of the serous membrane—for the meshes of the basement membrane filled with fibrine and its surface covered by the effused lymph, the fluid parts of the serum are enclosed in a structure forming a shut sack, that appears to have little exosmotic action; this amorphous material may form a cytoblastema for the development of the different cell formations, that follow as a necessary consequence in the progress of the disease. On the first commencement of congestion in the capillaries, the white globules of the blood, line the walls of the vessels, during the effusion of the plastic material above alluded to, these will doubtless in a greater or less extent be carried with it, contained in the mother liquor, the effused liquor sanguinis they present to us the source of the future development of the cell formations. No doubt the relaxation and dilatation on the one hand, and pressure from within the vessels on the other, the plasma will be pressed out from among the aggregating corpuscles and even these, upon a further increase of the forces may escape from the vessel in a very considerable quantity, and may constitute the exudation corpuscles. Gerber says that “the exudation corpuscles are in every respect the same as the lymph corpuscles; they generally form many superimposed layers, being laid flat one upon the other and so constituting membranes that resemble the tessellated epithelium, when the connecting medium has disappeared so that the edges of the primary round Corpuscle thrust against each other, are thus rendered polygonal under the microscope, an ever increasing linear arrangement of the exudation Corpuscles, which are more intimately united at two opposite points in one line, by means of the connecting cytoblastema than any where else, is apparent.” Doubtless the law of