

The tissue juice circulation I shall call the lymph, and the other the lymphatic. As the lymphatic is one of the forces in the lymph circulation there will be no attempt made here to divorce them. Are we in possession of sufficient data to indicate the method by which lymph passes over from the blood stream to the lymph circulation? Does the balance of testimony point to lymph as a secretion a filtration, or a product extracted or sucked out by the vital activity of the tissues themselves?

If the field of inquiry be extended to embrace facts from evolutionary, embryological, physiological, pathological and clinical sources, the answer to the first question can reasonably be affirmed. The second question points to lymph as an independent circulation, and its forces are the vital activity of the tissues. It would follow that the lymph itself was an extraction product from the blood stream. The extraction process may have some of the characters of secretion and filtration. It is not to be denied that the physical laws of the liquid act in the body, but their scope in the lymph circulation is overshadowed by the selective action arising out of the vital activities of the tissues. The thing that most concerns us is that lymph circulation is an independent one.

Lymph will flow from the thoracic duct in some cases as long as four hours after the death of the animal. Ludwig long ago discovered that ligation of this duct was soon followed by rupture of it behind the point of ligature.

Harley by his experiments⁵ on the production of jaundice in dogs, found that when he ligated the hepatic lymph ducts and the biliary duct simultaneously, there was great danger of rupture of one of them. These experiments were conducted to show that bile gained entrance alone by way of the lymphatic circulation, but they also show an unsuspected power behind this primeval circulation.

There are evidently as many circulatory forces as there are tissues, each tissue possessing a method of its own in the selection of lymph. Easily understood examples of this may be seen in the vitreous humor of the eye, cartilage, bone, voluntary and involuntary muscles, epidermis, and hair. Their peculiarities will be discussed again at some length.

In addition to the ability of this circulation to continue for hours after cardio-vascular death, and independent of the latter forces, we see it the sole circulation in the vegetable kingdom, and the mighty trees of the forest are the evidence of its powers. It is the sole circulation in the lowest forms of animal life, and executes oxidation, excretion, secretion, vital movement reproduction and repair. It is the sole circulation in the early weeks of embryonic life of all individuals, promoting purpose-