

the pus corpuscles in the circulation and abscesses could not have been derived from the suppurating wound.

Another idea became prevalent, that the abscesses were the result of local inflammations, and the pus within the veins was there formed through inflammation of these vessels (Dance). Some authors, but especially Blandin and Cruveilhier, adopted phlebitis as the cause of metastatic abscesses, and the latter even a "phlebite capillaire."

"It has been proved by strictly physical experiments," says Cruveilhier * "that pus circulating with the blood stagnates in various parts of the capillary system, everywhere inducing inflammation of the venous capillaries or circumscribed inflammations, which more or less rapidly run their course to the formation of abscesses."

Finally, Sédillot very correctly remarked that pyæmia is the result of commingling pus-corpuscles with the blood, which stagnating in the vascular extremities, destroy capillary circulation, and induce the formation of small foci of inflammation. It is not the consequence of an admixture of a putrid serous liquid with the blood, as supposed by Bérard, for this would rather operate in the production of gangrene.

That pus may be introduced through open veins immediately into the circulating blood and become intermingled with this, and induce metastatic abscesses, is at present not a subject of doubt. The occurrence of those rare cases in which such abscesses form without phlebitis, and the circumstance that usually a coagulum of blood incloses the pus within the veins, is variously explained by authors.† The coagulum, by most of the latter, is considered insufficient to prevent the entrance of pus into the circulation, and almost all agree that pus is separated from the inner surface of the veins; which idea, so generally prevalent, is the reason why the whole process of phlebitis as well as pyæmia, has been misunderstood, notwithstanding so many excellent anatomical researches. But in what follows, I hope to prove that pyæmia originates by transformation of the blood within the vessels, without necessary participation of their walls, and that this transformation may occur from preceding stasis of blood in the veins, even without the previous existence of abscesses.

* Atlas, livr. XI., p. 8, pl. i.

† Sédillot views phlebitis in the ordinary cause of metastatic abscesses, but with others (Despean, Jobert, &c.) gives cases in which such were found without inflammation of the veins, and attempts to explain them by supposing the latter to have become eroded, which, however, has not been proved, and in the normal suppuration certainly is not so.