

been as a rule neglected. Three points should be observed: (1) The determination of the hemoglobin; (2) a count of the white and red elements, and (3) dry specimens to show the varieties of leucocytes as well as the form of the red elements present. Interesting practical results are to be attained. Mikulicz does not operate when the hemoglobin sinks below 40 per cent., as the patient is too weak to stand it. Increase of the white elements suggests a reaction in defence of the organism, and is of the utmost importance. The author appends a large number of cases to show some of the interesting details in connection with the subject of differential diagnosis as aided by a study of the blood.—*Revue de Chirurgie*.

FATAL TREATMENT OF ANEURISM BY THE GELATINE METHOD.

Two cases of considerable medical interest were investigated last week at Guy's Hospital by the City of London coroner. As most of our readers probably know, a new method of treating aneurism by the subcutaneous injection of gelatine has recently been introduced. One of the house-surgeons at Guy's, Mr. L. Stamm, had three cases of thoracic aneurism under this specific treatment. He himself sterilized the gelatine, of which several ounces were injected into the leg or other part of the body, so as to enter the general circulation, where it increases the coagulability of the blood and so leads to the consolidation of the sac. Of the three cases thus treated, one was discharged cured, while the two others developed tetanus and died. There can be no doubt that the specific organism of tetanus was introduced along with the gelatine. This accident is most unfortunate, as it will tend to cast a stigma upon what is undoubtedly a valuable scientific method of treating an incurable disease. No blame can be attached to the house surgeon, who had taken every precaution possible from a human point of view. The treatment was first introduced by Lancereaux, of Paris, who administered every six or eight days four to five grammes of gelatine in two hundred cubic centimetres of 0.7 chloride of sodium solution. If properly sterilized there should be local reaction at the point of injection. Lancereaux reported five cases of aneurism, of which three were cured. It is therefore obviously unfair for the newspapers to speak of the method as hospital experimentation upon patients.—*Ed. Med. Press*.