

*marked* leucocytosis be present, should such be the case the condition is likely to be either leuchæmia, sarcoma, pneumonia, pertussis or sepsis, and between these various diseases, it is not often that a differential diagnosis would be called for inasmuch as the general signs and symptoms would declare the nature of the malady. Even in those rare conditions in which one is called upon to differentiate between general sepsis and acute lymphatic leuchæmia, a rapid glance at the fresh blood specimen will usually tell from the degree of leucocytosis as to which malady is present.

From such a simple examination too, it is quite easy to gather whether or not an anæmia, if present, be mild or severe; if, in other words, it be an ordinary, simple secondary anæmia, or approaching that of the pernicious type, nearly as much at all events as one can gather with any great satisfaction from the use of instruments. The arrangement of the corpuscles to each other, their color, size and shape, and their nuclei if present, will greatly help in the diagnosis, at all events will support sufficiently what an examination of the patient's general condition has rendered suspicious.

Without instruments then it is possible to obtain a considerable degree of satisfaction in diagnosis. With their help on the other hand we can gain more accurate estimates to complete the diagnosis.

Having done thus much for our diagnosis, the question arises, to what degree is a further examination of the blood necessary, and do stained preparations of the blood afford really a very practical aid in the detection of the disease. In other words, is a so-called *differential count* of the leucocytes of very great interest and importance. That it is interesting, of course, goes without saying; for practical purposes, however, we are called upon to decide mainly between leuchæmia, with its mononuclear leucocytosis and those diseases in which a marked leucocytosis due to polynuclear cells is present. As already remarked, the degree of leucocytosis in the two conditions is usually so different as to render it unnecessary to make further examination and only in a few rare instances of doubt can it be of any importance. It must be confessed that in slight leucocytosis our own experience with differential counts has afforded us but little satisfaction.

Apart from these, however, there is a very large series of maladies in which a slight or moderate leucocytosis is present (about 20,000), and we are called upon to employ a knowledge of this fact for diagnosis. It must be admitted, however, that these leucocytoses occur under most varying circumstances, the list being far too long to enumerate here.

Incidentally it may be said that it occurs in most inflammations, sometimes being present, however, and sometimes absent, the amount