

views, since he seems to be the champion of the theory so far as English opinion goes, may not be uninteresting to the reader who has not time at his disposal for a perusal of the new text-book.

It is a fresh local manifestation of the same constitutional disease, the old sore broken out in a new spot, the quarrel between those pathologists who are willing to admit the entrance into their observations and calculations of some factors, other than those that can be explained on purely mechanical grounds, and that other school who seek to eliminate the existence of the mysterious *esse*, known as vitality, simply because they cannot explain it. Perhaps Bland Sutton may stand as the champion among English pathologists, of the non-mechanical school. His description of the defending army of leucocytes, each cell a soldier, always mobilized, hurrying, by the arterial railways, to "the front," the seat of injury, and there either perishing in "the imminent deadly breach," in mortal duel with the invading bacillus, or triumphantly ingesting the foe, as a cannibal might his vanquished enemy, has become classical.

By this school of thinkers, the individuality of the cell is strongly insisted on, and the leucocyte in particular almost spoken of as a separate organism, like the amoeba. Metschnikoff, with his classical investigations upon the absorption by phagocytes of the tail and gills of the larval frog, was, perhaps, the apostle of this theory. The other school, of whose views, as already said, Hamilton, may be taken as the leading English representative, would be called by a theologian the more materialistic of the two. For instance, Hamilton so far robs the leucocyte of its active properties as to declare that diapedesis does not depend on a morbid motion, but is due chiefly to intravascular pressure, the cells escaping where the vessel wall is weakest, i. e., through the cement substance between the endothelial plates. Or again, he teaches that the capillary tuft which forms the basis of granulation tissue, is not a new formation, but a morbid dilatation of a pre-existing capillary which can no longer resist the expulsive action of the heart upon the contained column of blood. A brief *résumé* of his whole account of the process of healing may be not uninteresting. He proceeds upon the old clinical division of the process, that of Sir James Paget, into five varieties: By immediate union; by first intention, or primary ad-

hesion; by second intention, or granulation; by secondary adhesion, or union of two granulating surfaces; by scabbing. The five processes are found on investigation to be essentially the same, and healing by immediate union is the type, a clean cut, with pressure at once applied, no bleeding allowed, and no organismal contamination, therefore very little effused matter to be removed, and nothing to retard immediate healing by imposing the necessity of organization of a mass of new tissue, and absorption of exuded matter and blood-clot. In forty-eight hours each surface of cut will be seen to have thrown out a few new large soft round cells, proliferated from the connective tissue cells of the part, not from the wandering leucocytes, which co-exist, but are two or three times smaller. These new cells are fibro-blasts. They soon spindle out, and by change in protoplasm the caudate ends split into delicate fibrillæ, the nucleus persisting with perhaps a portion of the body of the spindle-cell as a connective tissue corpuscle, while the fibrillated portion is known hereafter as a bundle of white fibrous tissue.

(To be continued.)

THE VACANCY AT THE HEALTH OFFICE.

Since the issue of our last number we regret to have to record the resignation, in consequence of ill-health, of Dr. Canniff, who has held the position of Medical officer of Health for the past eight years.

Doubtless there will be a large number of applicants for the position and a great deal will depend on the co-operation of the profession in the selection of an officer, who, in all matters concerning infectious diseases and the public health, is placed in a position of authority. Realizing this fact, a meeting of the profession was called and a large and influential number of medical men met at the City Hall about a month ago, from whom a sub-committee of their number, consisting of Drs. Strange, Temple, White, Ross, Nesbitt, Ogden-Jones, Sheard, Burns and Britton were selected to meet a sub-committee of the Local Board of Health. His Worship the Mayor and Aldermen Verral, Gibbs and Graham were present at the joint meeting. The Medical Committee presented a series of resolutions, stating the qualifications for fitness in a Medical officer of Health and recommending