

In one disease, then, we already find the possible development of a great increase of the leucocytes characteristic of one form of leukæmia. The same, too, has been found in the mononuclear increase referred to already in several cases of sarcoma, a leucocytosis which both numerically as well as morphologically bore all the characters found in true leukæmia; nor can we believe that in a host of other affections where leucocytosis occurs that any absolute rule may be laid down as regards the type of the leucocytosis. While it may perhaps be generally accepted that in carcinoma the leucocytosis is mainly polynuclear, yet we have seen not a few cases where a distinct and indeed sometimes enormous increase of the large mononuclear elements was obvious. Further, one of the resident physicians of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Dr. R. B. Shaw, who has been engaged of late in a study of the leucocytes found in secondary anæmias, has observed a most irregular variation in the type of the leucocytes, whether relatively or absolutely increased, that the mononuclear may sometimes not only equal in numbers the polynuclear leucocytes, but not infrequently there is a distinct preponderance of either the lymphocytes or the large hyaline forms.

While, however, it may be agreed that so far as the lymphocytes and the large hyaline forms are concerned there is nothing in the examination of the blood which enables us to absolutely differentiate between Hodgkin's disease and true leukæmia, yet in the myelogenous form there is perhaps less difficulty, inasmuch as one finds there a type of leucocyte which probably does not occur normally in the blood. This myelocyte, as it is called, while increased in this form of leukæmia to a marked extent, is nevertheless absent in other varieties of that disease; and it seems but justifiable, from this fact alone, to exclude this cell as an essential feature in the diagnosis of all leukæmias. At all events it does not occur in the lymphatic form, nor is it always to be found in the splenic variety; on the other hand, too, it is now known to occur in conditions other than leukæmic, though, so far as we know, never to the same extent.

The eosinophile cells, as is well known, offer no feature of absolute diagnostic importance; not only do they seem to be increased in emphysema, pemphigus, scarlatina, etc., but every now and again an examination of patients in whom the blood condition is presumed to be normal there may occur a most marked increase in eosinophilous