

Editorials.

PERNICIOUS ANEMIA.

In the *Medical Press and Circular* for April 3rd there appears a lengthy and able article by Dr. William Hunter, of the London Fever Hospital, on the subject of pernicious anemia. Whatever Dr. Hunter has to say upon this topic is listened to with much interest, as it is known he has devoted many years of arduous study to this disease.

He holds strongly to the position that pernicious anemia is a sepsis, and must be added to the long list of diseases that must be regarded as of germ origin. The intermittent destruction of blood, and the increasing anemia, the lemon color, hemorrhages, dyspnea, palpitation, edema, from the absorption and hemolytic action of poison in the blood; the periodic disturbances of the alimentary tract, chiefly the stomach and the intestine, and toxemic attacks, as sweatings, nervous symptoms, numbness, tingling, ataxia, neuritis and sclerosis of the cord, all bear witness to its germ origin and septic nature. In this infection, oral and gastric sepsis plays an important part.

In the blood there is a degree of oligocythemia, far in excess of that caused by malignant, or wasting diseases, however long standing, and produced without the intervention of hemorrhages. While there is a great destruction of the blood corpuscles, there is a relatively high ratio of hemoglobin to each corpuscle. This high ratio is never met with in anemia from loss of blood. Hemolysis is greatly increased. The greatest degree of oligocythemia can be produced by means of hemolytic agents; but experience with disease shows that this is not easy by repeated hemorrhages, nor by wasting nutritional diseases of long standing, however profound.

The urine is high colored, due to the urobilin, which it contains. This character is marked by periodicity, and in this way is distinguished from the urobilinuria of fibrile diseases. The color is related to the degree of hemolysis, and this in turn is dependent upon the gastro-intestinal sepsis. The amount of urobilin follows closely the progress of the disease. When the