small quantity of methyl violet as a stain. If the investigation is carried on in the living animal, it (the animal) should be under the influence of chloral, and with a slow blood-current. The vessels of the omentum in very young animals may then be studied, and the vessels in the subcutaneous connective tissue of the tail of a rat one or two days old are specially recommended as furnishing excellent opportunities for this purpose. The subject may also be satisfactorily investigated in the tissue from human beings, and, in tissue which is removed from dead bodies, if taken very soon after death.

The corpuscle is a homogeneous, structureless mass of protoplasm, without distinction of center and periphery, "without color or nucleus. Sometimes one sees a dark peripheral portion, like a thickening of that part, but, when viewed from other points, this peculiarity is found to be only apparent. A marked peculiarity of these bodies is their tendency to cohere immediately alter the blood is drawn, thus forming Schultze's granule-masses, and this process is analogous to the nummulation of the red corpuscles. Another noteworthy fact is that the corpuscles sometimes remain isolated, instead of cohering, such a condition having been observed in blood which has been drawn from patients with malignant fevers, smallpox, etc. This fact also has its analogue in the less positive nummulation which obtains with the red corpuscles during the same diseases.

The plaques may also become crenated, a change which is believed to be physical and not anceboid. This phenomenon will be seen most satisfactorily if fresh-blood serum is added to the specimen. The number of these bodies is difficult to ascertain. Havem has placed it at 250,000 to 300,000 to the cubic millimetre, and in conditions of disease, as well as in the blood of the new-born, it may be 500,000 The methods of estimation are believed to be, as yet, inexor more. act, and hence all statements as to the number must be taken as merely approximate. The chief cause of difficulty in numerical estimations lies in the fact of the tendency of the bodies to collect and cohere at the sides of the vessels and upon any substance which may be interposed. The plaques are much more abundant, as already stated, in a diseased than in a healthy organism. They have been found specially abundant in cancer and other diseases in which there is a marked cachexia, and in the latter stages of pulmonary con-sumption. So noticeable is their presence in the last-mentioned disease that they were for a while supposed by some investigators to be a peculiar product of that disease. On the other hand, they are not increased in number during acute pyrexia, but during convalescence the increase is quite noticeable.

As to their presence, it is believed that it is constant in mammals, especially in the young. In oviparous vertebrates an analogous body has been found, but it is nucleated. The opinion has been advanced that they are not independent and original bodies, but are due to the disintegration of white corpuscles. Objections to such an opinion are: 1. I have never found that the white corpuscles disintegrate with such rapidity as to form bodies like these. 2. They can be demonstrated and fixed by the osmic acid method. 3. They have been repeated'y seen in the circulation of the living animal—in the omentum of the guinea-pie, etc.

The history of this body is comprised in three periods. The first includes the time previous to 1877-78, in which observations were made by Donné, Zimmerman, Erb, and others. In 1874 I called attention to the fact that the grannle-masses of Schultze did not assume that form until after the blood had been withdrawn. The second period

606