

tain that this is the only source of platelets. He points out that platelets do not evince any amœboid nature, nor do they show nuclear substance.

Sacerdotti demonstrated that under the influence of bichloride, the red blood cells show peculiar small buddings, which may be freed in the fluid and appear not unlike platelets.

Many authors have studied the nature of platelets in thrombi. In opposition to the view that platelets are definite elements possessing the power of multiplication, it has been shown that in a doubly ligated vessel, platelets were increased in immense numbers as thrombosis took place, while at the same time the blood cells were undergoing degeneration.

Albrecht points out that the presence of basic-staining substances within platelets does not necessarily point to the presence of nuclear material. He believes that the lecithin degeneration products of the red cells are accountable for the basic staining nature of some of the platelets.

Quite recently, Wright has brought forward a new contention. He regards all previous ideas, as to the origin of the platelets, as wrong. In his investigation, he has found that small bodies resembling platelets are budded off from the giant cells (megakaryocyte), of the spleen and bone marrow. In the marrow he distinguishes these cells definitely from the osteoclasts. He finds that the cytoplasm of the giant cell is granular, the granules resembling those seen in the platelets. The giant cell is amœboid, and sends out long, narrow processes, which become divided up or cut off into small bodies which are then liberated into the surrounding fluid. These pseudopodia may even stretch between the endothelial cells of the blood capillaries, and in this position give off the platelets.

*Basophile granulations of the erythrocyte.*—These granulations were first described by Askanazy, in 1893, and since that they have been studied by Shaumann and Lazarus in various forms of anæmias. Askanazy first suggested that these granules were the result of karyorrhexis, a view which has been accepted by many. Grawitz, however, insists that they arise from a degeneration of the cytoplasm. Though the origin of these granules is still undecided, the weight of evidence favours the theory of their nuclear origin.

*Origin of leucocytes.*—The white cells of the blood make their appearance at a later date than the red cells. The exact origin of these first leucocytes is still uncertain, but, at all events, they are derived from