

leukæmic condition of the blood. Litten (12), Gottlieb (13), and have recorded cases of pernicious anæmia which have manifested in the course of that malady a blood state typical of true leukæmia.

We must therefore conclude that an enormous increase of white cells is certainly not in itself diagnostic of leukæmia, nor is there any special class of diseases to which an over-abundant leucocytosis is confined, inasmuch as the most varied kinds of disease may, under peculiar conditions, manifest extreme leucocytosis. Such, for example, are some cases of pneumonia, malignant disease, and the terminal stage of many affections; so far as numbers are concerned, under a great variety of conditions, the blood examination may be indistinguishable from that of leukæmia.

It is, however, usually held that in leukæmia a special type of leucocyte is increased—namely, the mononuclear in contradistinction to the secondary leucocytosis from other causes and accompanying other affections which is chiefly of the polynuclear variety; and for the different forms of leukæmia there is in each case a different kind of leucocyte which is thought to be characteristic—for the myelogenous form, the myelocyte; for the splenic form, the hyaline cells; for that type in which the lymph glands are most affected, the lymphocytes.

While it must be granted that such preponderance of one form frequently obtains, it must be acknowledged that the condition is not absolutely diagnostic of true leukæmia. Above all, it is generally accepted that in Hodgkin's disease we may at times get a marked leucocytosis, the increase of the white cells concerning mainly the lymphocytes, the same class of cells which are increased in lymphatic leukæmia; indeed it not infrequently occurs, as stated by Professor Osler (14), that the lymphocytosis of Hodgkin's disease may become gradually so marked as to be quite indistinguishable from that found in lymphatic leukæmia. Such instances are described as cases of Hodgkin's disease which have run into lymphatic leukæmia, and yet the process may be so gradual as to render it impossible to decide where Hodgkin's disease has ended and where the lymphatic leukæmia began. It is upon the occasional occurrence of such events that Penzoldt (15) and Palma (9) believed that there exists a lymphatic Hodgkin's disease different from the ordinary variety of Hodgkin's disease, and which may be a prelude to true leukæmia.