

When the nuclein of the white blood-corpuscles becomes broken up, substances are formed which if oxidized become uric acid, and if decomposed go to form xanthine bases.

Now, if we follow Neusser and say that xanthine irritates the sympathetic, and by irritation of the sympathetic causes a new production of eosinophilic leucocytes, it is apparent we allow ourselves to fall into a vicious circle.

The xanthine or paraxanthine or allied substances—the so-called alloxuric bodies—ought then just as uric acid to be looked upon as incidental products, and the sympathetic irritant, whatever it may be, be sought elsewhere.

The source in cases of pure nasal reflexes may be found in the existing pathological condition in the nose, whence goes the impulse that sets the sympathetic ganglia in action, demonstrated by the increase in the number of the eosinophilic leucocytes.

As sometimes we have asthma, migraine, and the like arising reflexly from other sources than the nose, especially from diseases of the reproductive organs; these two may be regarded as sources of sympathetic irritation.

The cause of general leucocytosis may sometimes be toxins, the result of intestinal self-intoxication which may act chemiotactically on the leucocytes and irritates the sympathetic.

If uric acid does not produce the symptoms, how is it, it may be asked, that headache is brought about by the administration of substances that cause an increase of uric acid in the blood, and that headache, asthma, etc., seem to be lessened by the exhibition of agents, as contended by Haig, that render the blood alkaline and cause a diminution of the uric acid? As to the former, we can readily understand that the agent given has acted as an irritant to the sympathetic nervous system, and that the uric-acid increase in this case, as in others, is only the result of the leucocytosis which has been caused, and as to the latter there is little reason for knowing that the drugs have the effects which have been attributed to them by Haig. It is probable enough that gouty pains in the limbs, due to the presence, no doubt, of uric acid in the part, may be relieved by