

If we should continue to bear in mind, then, the fact that we can only be sure that there has been any actual increase of the leucocytes when we see an increase in the uni-nuclear cells (lymphocytes, splenocytes, myelocytes), we shall understand how we may reconcile the theory of the formation of the uric acid from the disintegration of the leucocytes with the observation that in some cases of leucocytosis there is little or no uric acid while in others it is notably increased.

As this has been the only objection against this theory of the formation of uric acid, we have then, admitting the correctness of the premises, no further difficulty in accepting it, and we are left only to prove that a leucocytosis of young cells occurs in the class of cases which we are studying as nasal reflexes in order to conclude that the uric acid is thence derived.

Leucocytosis he claims does occur in the nasal reflexes in the form of an eosinophilia from sympathetic irritation. A general lymphocytosis is said to occur in convulsive disturbances which may manifest themselves as a nasal neurosis. Striking is the observation of a leucocytosis, chiefly of the lymphocytes, occurring in exophthalmic goitre, as this disease has been reported in rare instances to be cured reflexly by way of the nose.

It appears to us then manifestly illogical to consider, as Haig and his followers do, that uric acid bears a causative relation to these attacks, seeing that we have the best reason to believe that it is formed from the leucocytes, and is therefore only an incidental phenomenon. That it could not be the cause appears still less probable from the fact that frequently enough there may be uric acid increase with no sign of any of those kinds of affections which have been attributed to it.

Some authors, denying to uric acid the position of primary and essential cause in the cases we are discussing, say, however, that the xanthine bases should be so regarded, as, for example, Kolisch, who, finding an increase of xanthine and paraxanthine during attacks of migraine and epilepsy, concludes that these agents directly cause the attack.