

In Cleveland's dictionary we find pus defined as matter produced by suppuration, a cream-like fluid, heavier than water.

Virchow calls pus dead or destroyed tissue.

Dr. Black's is undoubtedly the best definition ever given us. He defines pus as the liquefaction of the plastic exudate, by the operation of microbes, death of the ameboid cells, from the changed chemical character of their matrix. Here we see the exudate or matrix of these ameboid cells so changed that it fails to support them; they die, and the resultant mass is pus. These cells are called white blood corpuscles or leucocytes when they are in the blood, when they are outside in the tissues, they are called ameboid or wandering cells. They pass into the tissues from the blood vessels by a process called diapedesis, which means a oozing through without rupturing the walls of the vessels confining them. These cells are the white blood corpuscles, or more properly undeveloped connective tissue walls, and one of their functions in nature is to repair injuries. The plastic exudate thrown out during the process of inflammation, forms the matrix in which these ameboid cells develop. They are always found imbedded in it, and it is absolutely essential to their final development into living tissue.

By ameboid properties is meant not only the capability of free movement, but the possession of a power which enables a cell to take foreign particles into its interior.

An exposed pulp is in a similar condition to an open wound, and both must be kept entirely free from contact with pus producing germs. If once they enter this plastic exudate, it begins to liquefy, its chemical character is changed, it fails to support the ameboid cells, consequently they die; they are then known as pus corpuscles.

In open wounds this process always takes place on the outer surface; these ameboid or undeveloped connective tissue cells continue to pile up in the form of living granulations, some of them floating away in the liquefying mass that ought to have formed their matrix. In this way the matrix or exudate is kept constantly filled with ameboid cells, tending to develop into healthy granulations. On the contrary, the liquefaction of some of this plastic exudate carries off some of these cells in the form of pus.

If the former exceed the latter process, healing by what is commonly known as first intention takes place; if on the other