

THE BLOOD.

The importance of a very complete knowledge of the blood is evident to all who are engaged in the practice of medicine. True it is, that for the every day rank and file doctor, the knowledge that the blood consists of water, red and white corpuscles, together with albumins, fibrine, salts, extractives, etc., has seemed sufficient. But the physiologist and pathologist are not satisfied with what is already common property in regard to the constituents of the blood, and they are, with very laudable ambition, endeavoring to discover new things in connection with this all-important fluid, and to identify their names with such discoveries. Students have been not a little puzzled by the numerous terms found in text-books, to express the ideas conceived by those experiments, their discoveries having, in many cases, proved mares' nests, and their terms ephemeral. While much that was illusive has been written, the progress of material knowledge in this department, as in all others connected with physiology, has been steady, and, thanks to the patient care of these laboratory workers, our conception of many physiological and pathological processes is much clearer than it was even one decade ago, all the blunders, ephemeral terms, and mares' nests notwithstanding.

The latest discovery is that of a new blood cell, by Dr. Alexander Edington, of Edinburgh, a surgeon and bacteriologist of considerable repute, who has devoted much time to the study of the morphology of the blood. This new cell, Dr. Edington calls an "albocyte." It is a spherical, colorless cell, of about one-third the diameter of the ordinary red blood corpuscle, of which it is an early form.

The whole of Dr. Edington's views regarding the blood cells may be summed up as follows:

Starting with white blood corpuscles, he finds that in their earlier life, they contain one, or at most two nuclei, which number, after a certain period of development, is increased to four. The discharge of these nuclei from the cell results in the formation of "free," or "daughter" nuclei, of which some go in to the development of fresh white blood corpuscles, while others become multinucleated cells, also allied to white blood corpuscles, but having distinct functions to perform. To

this cell the discoverer gives the name of matricyte, and it, after increasing in size, discharges its numerous nuclei, and then forms, what he calls, the new cell—the "albocyte." This gradually enlarges, takes up hæmoglobin, and eventually is transformed into the perfect red blood corpuscle. The arrangement, then, according to Dr. Edington, is: (a) The white blood corpuscle; (b) The daughter nuclei; (c) The matricyte; (d) The albocyte; (e) The red blood cell; (f) The granular bodies called hæmatoblasts.

These latter bodies were named by Hayem, and consist, according to him, of granular matter originating in the white cell. They are concerned, together with the white cell, in the formation of fibrin.

THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

It is to be regretted that the attendance at the recent meeting of the Dominion Medical Association was not larger. The physician who allows the fear of losing the receipts from his practice for the few days requiring his attendance at such meetings, to influence him in not attending, acts upon a mistaken idea of economy. It is in, and by such meetings that the general good of the medical profession is advanced and every physician should consider it his duty to attend. No organization has done more than the Dominion Medical Association to maintain the unity of feeling and purpose, which exist among the members of the profession to-day, and apart from its social and scientific benefits, it has conferred benefits upon all which should keep alive its claims. When we state that of the three hundred and eighty medical men in the City of Toronto, not more than twenty-five attended this meeting, and also that at a meeting held over twenty years ago the attendance was much larger and more representative, we may be excused if we question the progress of the medical profession as being upon as high a plane as some would lead us to imagine.

PEURPERAL ECLAMPSIA.—Mr. Alban says (*The Med Jour.*) that he has seen six cases, four whilst acting as assistant and two in his own practice.