the case of a woman of 26 who had no enlargement of the spleen, or of the lymphatics, yet whose blood had 1 white to 2 red corpuscles—here there may have been a defective transition of white into red globules, though some claim that white corpuscles never change into red ones. This woman was cured in three months. With regard to splenic enlargement in chronic pseudoleukemia, Dreschfeld states his experience to be that it is present only to a limited extent, and then only as a result of metastatic deposits, which sometimes, indeed, produce an enormous enlargement. In this acute case, however, there were no deposits in the spleen, although it weighed 16 ounces.*

The close alliance of all these morbid conditions seems to point to a similarity of causation in them. If we now turn to the search of that cause, it will be appropriate at first to briefly consider the present state of our knowledge concerning the numbers, origin and destruction of the blood corpuscles.

When most of us learned physiology we were taught that the cells in blood consisted of two kinds—the red, of which there were about 5 millions to the c.c., and the white much less numerous, being present in the ratio of 1 to 3, 4, or even 5 hundred of the red. Other smaller irregular bodies were noticed, but considered as disintegrations of the red ones. It is known now that the number of the white corpuscles vary within wide limits under certain conditions—thus the ratio in the splenic vein is 1-60, while in the splenic artery it is 1-2,000. From this it is inferred that a great destruction of red globules takes place in the spleen. They increase largely after a meal and disappear in enormous numbers when blood is drawn from the body. Since our student days these cells, red and white, have been subjected to more rigorous microscopic scrutiny, and another constituent, called blood-plates or tablets, is described, 18 to 250 thousand in the c.c. of blood. These may be shortly noticed and dismissed at present, as the physiologists who recognize them differ so much in the views they entertain regarding them: some think they take part in the coagulation of the blood, others that they are disintegrated leucocytes, which, since they rapidly break up and dissolve in drawn blood, seems probable enough. The behavior of cells under various stains, such as eosine, which Ehrlich employed, has also been observed. The results of these studies, if not productive of much useful information hitherto, has been to multiply names to a rather alarming extent. Certainly nothing should be deemed trivial which tends to the advancement of knowledge; but grave distinctions without equivalent differences are always

* It is well known that the spleen varies in magnitude more than any organ of the body, not only in different individuals, but in the same under different conditions. Its weight ranges from 5 to 7 ounces in the male; but, even when perfectly free from disease, may fluctuate between 4 and 10 ounces.—QUAIN.