

which may be thus briefly stated. He considers the poisons of gout and rheumatism to be thus far identical in their nature, that they both consist of an excess of the nitrogenous element of the blood, and that this nitrogenous element in the case of rheumatism is fibrine, and in that of gout albumen. The view that the element in the blood causing rheumatism is fibrine in excess, is supported by the following facts :

1. That this fibrine is found in so great excess in the blood of rheumatic patients, that Lehmann asserts that of all diseases the fibrine is in general increased in the largest proportion in acute articular rheumatism and pneumonia.

2. That this excess of fibrine also manifests itself by the excess of urates eliminated from the blood in patients with the so-called rheumatic diathesis.

3. That attacks of acute rheumatism come on contemporaneously with the inability of the system to use the excess of fibrine in the blood, and to eliminate the excrementitious urates.

4. The attack of rheumatism is produced by any cause which prevents the conversion of the fibrine of the blood into the fibrinous elements of muscles and other fibrous organs, and the due elimination of the urates.

5. In cases of acute rheumatism, the excess of fibrine in the blood finds an outlet in fibrinous effusions, while in chronic rheumatism it finds an outlet in hypertrophy of the fibrous structures.

6. All curative measures for rheumatism do good in proportion as they cause the excess of fibrine to be eliminated in the form of urates or consumed in the process of assimilation.

7. All preventive measures in rheumatism consist in the use of dietetic or other hygienic rules, whereby the entrance of an excess of fibrine into the blood is prevented, or when it is introduced that it may be assimilated and the effete matter eliminated as urates.

That the nitrogenous element in the blood which causes gout is albumen in excess, is indicated by the following facts :

1. Whether known to us as globuline, gelatine, chardine, gluten, &c., the textures containing albumen are those implicated in gout. These textures may be divided into four classes : as the blood cells containing globulin, cellular, mucus, and purely serous membranes containing gelatine, the cartilages containing chardine, and the cartilage of bone, gluten.

2. That globulin, the coagulable matter of the blood cells, is more abundant in plethoric gout, and that one source of the increased quantity of uric acid in the blood of some gouty patients may be ascribed to the increased quantity of globulin in the blood.

3. The food inducing an attack of gout is usually peculiarly rich in albumen.