

## THE MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF LEUCOCYTOSIS.

R. N. Wilson, Philadelphia, concludes:

The term leucocytosis must include every increase in the absolute number of the leucocytes of the blood examined as well as every increase in the percentage count of the various leucocytic forms.

A leucocytosis, of whatever nature, must always be regarded as a clinical sign of importance, but never of such weight as to influence against equally convincing physical signs.

A high percentage of the polymorphonuclear forms in the absence of an absolute leucocytosis indicates the presence either of pus or of some grave inflammatory process, together with a low vitality of the patient.

Specific factors may rarely exert such an unusual influence as to interfere with the customary reaction of the polymorphonuclear cells. At least one instance has been noted in which the total number of leucocytes was increased at the same time with a marked reduction in the number of the polymorphonuclear forms. This condition is, probably, seldom encountered.

Single counts of the leucocytes or single estimation of the leucocytic percentages are often misleading; while a persistent series of observations will seldom fail to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of the condition.

A gradual, but steady, rise in the total count of leucocytes above the customary number usually indicates the presence of an active and augmenting inflammatory influence. When this increase reaches large proportions it may be looked on as an indication of the presence of an active leucocytic process (seroses or purulent effusion, localized pus collection, pneumonic exudate, etc.), provided the clinical picture also bears out the suggestion.—*Four. A. M. A.*

## THE USE AND ABUSE OF THE URETHRAL SOUND.

J. H. Dowd, Buffalo, offers some rules for the use of the sound:

1. When the urethra has been involved by inflammation, specific, or otherwise, no instrument, and especially the steel sound, should be used until the urine is clear excepting for shreds or floating particles. (Prostatic plugs).