

CANADA

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The Uses of Pus in the Animal Economy. By A. P. REID, M.D., L.R.C.S. Ed., &c., &c., Professor of Medicine and Clinical Medicine in Dalhousie College and University. Read before the Halifax Medical Society, Feb. 6th, 1872.

It is not my object in this paper to discuss the ordinary qualities of this animal fluid, nor how or why it may present itself, but rather to seek for evidence of its beneficial influence, qualities which are not much insisted on by Pathologists.

Received opinion makes it a specially noxious fluid, and the aim of the profession has been, and will be, to prevent its appearance if possible; and so far we are right, if our endeavours are to prevent the circumstances which give rise to it, and happily in no other way can we succeed in our attempts.

Its chemical composition is very nearly the same as that of the blood, and hence very closely allied to that of the tissues. The Pus globules we have every reason to believe, are the white blood corpuscles which, having passed through the capillaries, form part of the effusion into inflamed tissues, and at the focus of the inflammation being deprived of their nutrition, have lost their vitality, and must separated from the living parts.

The exuded fluids in the immediate vicinity of these globules, also lose their vitality from the same cause, and the two together form what we call *pus*.

Its formation explains to us one of the services it renders.

Use 1st—It is the method by which Dead Exudation Corpuscles and fluids assume a condition allowing of their subsequent removal by a channel which is not necessarily injurious to the system at large, whereas they would be if permitted to enter the blood, to be expelled by the emunctories. Few proofs will need to be adduced to sustain this position, for we are too well aware of the pernicious influence exerted by the entrance of decomposing matters into the circulation,