

during labor, and a *considerable* one in the early puerperium. He accentuates, moreover, the fact—but little recognized—that in eclampsia, a sharp rise in the total leukocytes, as well as in the polymorphonuclears, is to be expected. In some cases, the leukocytes have been as high as 45,000.

Dienst's studies on the ratios of the different albumins in normal pregnancy, and in eclampsia, were very thorough. The total "albumin content" of the blood in non-pregnant healthy women was found to be 6.66 or 8.11 per cent.; the total albumin content in healthy pregnant women 6.9 or 8.2 per cent.

The ratio between the serum-albumin and the serum-globulin, in healthy non-pregnant women, was 1.02 to 1.97 per cent. as against 1.48 to 1.54 per cent. in healthy pregnant women (no change practically). The amount of fibrinogen in the non-pregnant was 0.31 per cent., while in the pregnant it was 0.45 per cent. (slight increase). In four eclamptics examined, the total albumin per cent. of the blood-plasma was found to be *slightly lower*, viz., an average of 6.71 per cent., as against 7.64 per cent. (normal pregnant average). The loss was rather more in the serum-globulin than in the serum-albumin. The *fibrinogen* in three of the four eclamptics that lived, showed a *marked increase* over the normal-pregnancy average, viz., 0.53 per cent. In the case that died, the per cent. of fibrinogen was lessened.

This fibrinogen cannot come from the fetal blood, as the latter was found to contain less than the maternal. Dienst believes that it *must come* from the maternal surface of the placenta, and offers the probable conclusion that eclampsia is due to an *over-accumulation of fibrinogen and fibrin ferment in the blood*.

He believes that the increased metabolic requirements of pregnancy induce a hyperleukocytosis, with a resultant destruction of leukocytes, in excessively large numbers. This increased destruction of white cells liberates unusual amounts of fibrinogen and fibrin ferment.

Dienst considers that the placenta is the seat of greatest destruction of the leukocytes and it is in consequence in the retroplacental blood that the greatest percentage of fibrinogen is to be found. The fibrinogen and fibrin ferment are considered to have a pernicious effect upon the endothelial lining of the small blood-vessels throughout the body, but especially in the liver, kidneys, and brain. As soon as the body is unable to cope with this increase of fibrinogen and fibrin ferment, insuf-