

- (a) The direct leucotactic action of the blood poison.
  - (b) The action of the chemical substances (particularly the nuclein substance) resulting from the destruction of the corpuscular elements of the blood.
6. The leucocytosis resulting from the injection of corpuscular elements into the blood stream is a pure phagocytosis, and does not lead to any marked destruction of the leucocytes.
7. The increased leucocyte destruction in infectious diseases is due to the presence in the blood of a substance which destroys the vitality of the leucocyte.

## SURGERY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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**Hypertrophy of the Gums.**—HEATH (*British Medical Journal*, May 1, 1897) reports a remarkable and somewhat uncommon case of hypertrophy of the gums in the person of a young man, aged twenty-six years. Hypertrophy of the upper lip and a fulness of the cheeks were the most prominent features when the mouth was closed, but when the mouth was opened it reminded one of the mouth of a hippopotamus or rhinoceros on a small scale.

The history shows that the hypertrophy was first noted about four years previously, when there was a comparatively slight hypertrophy of the gums and no displacement of the teeth. This hypertrophy was removed at that time by operation. Three months later the patient noticed the growth again, and it has steadily increased during the last three years.

The external deformity was well marked on admission, and the gums were seen to be enormously hypertrophied when the mouth was open, and most of the teeth were loosened and displaced. The palate looked at first like a cleft palate, but this was due to the hypertrophied gum on each side covering the palate nearly to the median line, where a small interval was left.

On account of the free bleeding experienced in a former case, the patient was placed on a table with the head falling off. The teeth were then rapidly extracted—all the teeth of the upper jaw except two canines, which were firm—and the hypertrophied gums cut away with scissors down to the alveolus, the edge of which was removed by the bone-forceps. The bleeding was checked by the Paquelin and by plugging.