would expect that this increased transportation of fats with a cachexia would result in a corresponding loss of body protein, but such is by no means the case, nor is every cachexia associated with a lipemia. Surface tension tests show that for each individual of a species there exists a fairly constant normal lipase value for the blood serum. This falls rapidly after the production of anemia, and seems to return to normal in a manner inversely proportionally to the grade of lipemia induced. It is the same way in cases made anemic by poison, but in animals poisoned by phloridzin practically no fall in the lipase content occurs. It would, therefore, appear that the lipemia in these experiments, at least, was due to an inability to rid the blood of fats by reason of a blood serum deficient in lipase.

The Clotting of Blood as Seen with the Ultramicroscope.—Using the slit ultramicroscope of Seidentopf, the oxalated plasma of various animals and suitable amounts of an aqueous solution of thrombin, HOWELL (*Jour. of Physiol.*, 1914, xxv, 143) has studied the process of coagulation, which in accord with the results of Stuebel, proceeds after the manner of crystal formation. The process is most beautifully seen when solutions of thrombin and fibrinogen are used. Aqueous solutions of thrombin exhibit a few particles showing Browman movement, but the field is practically dark; fibrinogen solutions, however, show numerous active particles and a strongly luminous light-cone in which individual particles can not be seen. Howell inclines toward the view that under the influence of thrombin there occurs an aggregation of the invisible particles (amicrons) of this light-cone with further consolidation into the needle-like crystals of fibrin, beautifully shown in the article by photomicrographs. Howell finds no evidence of the fibrin network so often described, except when the conditions are such as give rise to incomplete clotting.

On the Effect of Extirpation of the Spleen on the Course of Pernicious Anemia.—A. V. DECASTELLO (*Deutsch. med. Woch.*, 1914, xl, 639, 692) reports in detail observations in 5 cases of pernicious anemia subjected to splenectomy. Frequent examinations were made over a period of months. From his small series of cases Decastello feels that improvement in the blood-picture and in the general condition of the patient can be anticipated with considerable confidence; indeed, the patient may return practically to normal. This improvement, however, in the light of our present knowledge, is more probably to be interpreted as a remission than a cure. Therefore, it is not yet justifiable to assume that removal of the spleen eradicates the cause of the disease, or that the disease is due to a previously increased hemolytic activity on the part of the spleen. Decastello thinks that it is much more likely that the operation produces nutritive stimuli to the bone marrow through some change in metabolism as a result of the loss of the spleen.

Studies of the Uric Acid of the Blood.—E. STEINITZ (*Deutsch. med. Woch.*, 1914, xl, 953) has made a study of the uric acid of the blood quantitatively by the method of Folin and Denis. He finds that the normal blood of a patient on a purin-free diet always contains uric acid in amounts sufficient for quantitative determination. The value of this endogenous