

lack of chemical identifications. We should be told the chemical nature of these substances and criteria for distinguishing them before identification is required.

Rigdon (2) merely concluded: "A substance has been obtained from the skin, muscle and testicles of normal rabbits which produces a local increase in capillary permeability." By what logic does Dr. Menkin assume that this substance is leukotaxine? With equal logic he might assume that histamine—which increases capillary permeability—is leukotaxine.

The statement "Leukotaxine has no common property with histamine, either chemically or biologically" is not factual. Histamine causes both dilatation and permeability of capillaries. Menkin claims that leukotaxine has these same properties.

Duthie and Chain (3) found in extracts of liver, kidney, and muscle substances that increased capillary permeability. They devised a method whereby a polypeptide was obtained from fibrin by peptic digestion. This product was strongly chemotactic; it caused increased capillary permeability and leuko-

cytic infiltration in the skin of animals. A polypeptide having similar properties was obtained from Witte's peptone and from many proteins. These workers were convinced that they were dealing with a general physiologic action of protein breakdown products. They were unable to establish a chemical relationship between these products and leukotaxine, and doubted that the claim that leukotaxine is a polypeptide has been established. Yet Menkin cited these authors, Rigdon, and others as having corroborated his findings.

The most valid criticism leveled at our report is that it substantiates the conclusions of earlier workers. This, we humbly admit, it *does*.

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