

# BLOOD

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## PREFACE

### BLOOD CELLS AND THEIR REACTIONS

TWO YEARS AGO, a special issue of *Blood*, "Morphologic Hematology," was published. At that time *Blood* was a bimonthly publication, and purchase of this special issue placed an extra burden upon the interested subscriber. This was criticized sharply, and as a result it was determined that in the future, all "special issues" should be sent to regular subscribers without extra cost. The present issue represents the first application of this principle. The excess in cost above the publication charge for a regular issue has been borne by a very generous grant from the Lederle Laboratories Division of the American Cyanamid Company.

Despite the startling advances made in the physiologic and chemical aspects of hematology, the base line of that specialty must still remain the cell. The reactions of the blood cells, their enzymatic constituents, their chemical reactions are now being actively studied by such technics as those of histochemistry and phase microscopy. In fact, the cytologist, far from having lost ground, is now in an enviable position. From the appearance and reactions of a cell when subjected to various chemical reactions, it is possible to interpret in some measure its complicated functions, and from this it is only a short step to phenomena of abnormal growth such as leukemia and leukosarcoma. The ultimate control of such highly proliferative diseases will come only through a knowledge of the complicated growth problems of the white cells.

In the past several months, a large number of manuscripts devoted to blood cells has been accepted for publication in *Blood*. In this issue, many of them are arranged together in broad sections dealing with the red cells, the leukocytes, and the platelets. It is hoped that this symposium of blood cells and their reactions will prove of value and will serve as a convenient reference to some of the modern phases of morphologic hematology.

WILLIAM DAMESHEK  
for the Editors of *Blood*