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REVIEW OF SOME OF THE MORE RECENT ADVANCES IN THE STUDY OF BLOOD DISEASES¹

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PROGRESS in hematology, as in any other science, depends to a great extent upon new and accurate methods of observation. As has been emphasized by Sir Humphry Rolleston,² probably the two most important steps which led to a great increase in our knowledge of blood diseases were the introduction of the microscope, and especially the compound, achromatic form by G. D. Amici a hundred years ago, and the development of the modern methods of staining blood by Paul Ehrlich, which he began in 1877.

The entire field of medicine from a scientific standpoint has progressed more rapidly during the past 50

¹ Address of the vice-president and chairman of the Section of the Medical Sciences, delivered before the General Session, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Pittsburgh, December 27, 1934.

² Sir Humphry Rolleston, *Proc. of the Royal Soc. of Med.*, 27: 31-48, July, 1934.

years than it has at any other time in the history of the world. New, valuable and accurate information which has an important bearing on the cause and cure of disease has accumulated so rapidly that those who teach the practice of medicine and are interested in problems of medical research find that it requires a great effort on their part to keep abreast with the advances which are being made, even when their interests are largely restricted to a specialized field.

The science of hematology illustrates as well as any other branch of medicine that these statements are true, for during the past decade many new and fundamental facts have been discovered which have an important bearing upon the etiology and the treatment of certain blood diseases.

As it will be necessary obviously to limit this discussion, it is essential that my remarks be confined to

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