

COLORED PRISMATIC CRYSTALS

IN

B L O O D - G L O B U L E S .

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IN examining blood from the finger, I found colored crystals within the blood-globules, described by Kölliker, as existing in the blood-globules of the spleen, &c., of various animals.

The blood was taken from the finger of a young man of twenty-two years of age, an officer in the army, apparently in perfect health, and who had dined heartily two hours before. It was diluted with an equal quantity of water, and a few drops placed under the microscope. The globules presented the usual appearance at first; but after about one minute, as the fluid began to evaporate, yellowish-red crystals appeared in them, having the form of four-sided prisms, with angles and edges well defined. There was generally one crystal in each globule. In some globules there were two, and these crossing each other. A few free crystals also were seen floating about in the more fluid portion. The globules themselves seemed to have their natural color, and presented no other unnatural appearance than this. The white globules also were natural and in no excess of numbers.

These crystals have been found by Kölliker and Funke in the blood of the splenic vein, and in the spleen substance in many animals; also in the *Cereia fluviatilis*, in the blood of the liver, kidney, and heart. They have, until recently, been seen only when a few drops of blood have been evaporated on a glass; but Funke has now succeeded, with great difficulty, in obtaining them in large quantities by the action of water and alcohol through membranes. Lehmann thinks they are formed by the union of an albuminoid and a mineral substance, since they present, with the usual reagents for albumen, the same results as albumen.