

subject because it could not fail to be of interest to most of you, and you have doubtless met with examples. Much good work in our hospitals for the insane is lost by a lack of interest by the general practitioner in our specialty and a lack of association of ideas before and after a case is given into our charge.

In making out your histories and certificates do not only try to fulfil the requirements of the law, but supply us with the main points in the history of the patient, so that your valuable experience may not be lost to the patient's welfare in coming to us, but that we may have your ideas as a guide to any further treatment we may devise. I hope each gentleman will have some criticism to make. I wish to thank Drs. Clarke, Beemer of London, Reynolds of Hamilton, Ross of Brockville, and Eakins of Belleville, for much trouble in supplying information.

J. M. FORSTER.

PRINCIPLES OF THE DIETETIC TREATMENT OF DIABETES MELLITUS.*

I HAVE been greatly honored by this society in an invitation to present before its members some of my views upon diabetes. While such a task is by no means an unpleasant one, in view of the great intrinsic interest of the subject, the importance of the class of cases in clinical practice, and, lastly, the familiarity of the picture to my mind, in consequence of having with considerable care and thought gone over this field with special interest for a number of years, I must, however, confess some hesitation in the undertaking, since very divergent views have been held upon the subject by so many eminent observers, not only as to the etiology and pathology of the disease, but also as regards its proper management. In addition to this the literature of the disease—which is prodigious in volume—is yet so inharmonious and even contradictory, as a whole, that it is exceedingly difficult to glean from it any very uniform or systematic basis of knowledge of the true nature or pathology of the disease. But while our knowledge of the nature and pathology of diabetes

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