

ACUTE DIABETES.*

BY DR. A. F. MCKENZIE, MONKTON.

Herbert T., twenty years of age, cheesemaker, first consulted me in the fall of 1898, for trouble in connection with a partially erupted wisdom tooth. He was tall and slim, and complained of feeling run down; but this was attributed to his not having eaten well on account of the trouble with his tooth, and to his having at the same time continued to work hard at his trade. A small portion of overlapping gum was excised to relieve the tooth trouble, and a tonic mixture was prescribed. I did not see him again professionally until the 9th of January last. He then told me that while on a visit to some friends during the Christmas holidays he ate rather freely of sweet food, and drank a good deal of cider. At the same time he noticed that he was passing more than the usual amount of urine, and felt very thirsty. He consulted me regarding these symptoms about two weeks after they were noticed by him. The urine had a specific gravity of 1032, and gave a very positive reaction for sugar. His tongue was large, flabby, and covered with a white fur. His breath had a heavy odor. He complained of a nauseous taste constantly present in his mouth. He stated that he had been troubled with constipation for years, but had been much worse in this respect since the commencement of his illness. He was instructed to avoid the use of sugar in all forms, and was given some calomel and also some boracic acid, 10 grs. to be taken in solution four times a day. This was prescribed as an intestinal antiseptic on the strength of some cases recently reported in the *British Medical Journal* as having been successfully treated with this drug. He was instructed to measure the amount of urine passed, and next day reported that during the twenty-four hours he had voided 156 ounces, or nearly four times the normal quantity. On January 13th, four days after consulting me, the amount of urine was reduced by 23 ounces, the sp. gr. remaining the same, 1032. The pulse was noted as being slow, 64 to the minute, and the temperature $96\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$. Two days after there was a further reduction of 12 ounces, and the sp. gr. was reduced to 1030; pulse 60; temperature $95\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, three degrees below normal. Patient thought he felt some better, but complained of his bowels remaining constipated in spite of laxatives.

On the morning of January 21st, twelve days from the time he first consulted me, I was asked to go to see the patient as he

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