

entirely theoretic one—that large amounts of flesh foods predispose to diabetic coma. Now what little we think we know of the nature and cause of diabetic coma at present rests upon pure theory. In actual practice we certainly find that diabetic coma usually arises in those cases attended by a high percentage of sugar in the urine, and moreover, usually at the period or soon after the sugar excretion reaches its maximum. Furthermore, we are taught to believe, and, I think, properly so, that the lower we are able to reduce the sugar percentage in the urine, the further shall we remove the patient from the danger of the appearance of coma. It should be borne in mind that an exclusive proteid diet is not here advocated, but rather the discussion is in favor of a proteid and fat diet in certain cases. I can not, perhaps, more tersely express the advanced views upon this question in conclusion than in the words of Noorden, to whom we owe so much for his classic digest of our knowledge on the subject. He says: "From what I have been able to glean from the literature, from what I myself have seen, and from what has been related to me by other judicious partisans of the fat-and-flesh diet, it appears to me that the dread of coma so produced is wholly unfounded. I believe, therefore, that for every really grave case of diabetic glycosuria, the fat-and-flesh diet to the exclusion of carbohydrates is to be regarded as the ideal regimen, against which no serious objection can be raised."

It remains in this connection to speak of the place that alcohol should occupy in the regimen of the diabetic, or if its use be advisable at all, and this question should receive careful and sincere consideration. We must, in the first place, keep in mind the well-known dangers of the use of alcohol to the nervous system, especially when employed in considerable quantities; and, moreover, we must not lose sight of the fact that the majority of diabetic patients are decidedly neurotic. So thoroughly has this been recognized, that many observers have claimed for the disease a nervous origin. Without admitting the latter as true, but recognizing the undoubted neurotic tendencies of these patients, it is clear that the use of alcohol has its dangers, especially if allowed in any large amounts, and therefore, if admissible it must be with due caution and only within strictly moderate limits. On the other hand, we can not ignore the fact previously