

### The Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus.

In the *Medical Chronicle* Williamson gives an interesting summary of the latest contributions to this subject.

M. Lauritzen, of Copenhagen, has given a useful summary (*Medizinische Klinik*, 1905, No. 39) of the results obtained by various observers with respect to the use of carbohydrate articles of food in diabetes mellitus, and has added his own valuable observations.

1. As regards the treatment of diabetes mellitus with large quantities of milk, Lauritzen concludes from his own observations that a rigid milk diet may cause the diabetic symptoms to disappear, for a time, in the mild cases, and in cases of medium severity; but a permanent cure cannot be obtained, and better results follow an ordinary rigid diabetic diet.

The milk diet, however, is of great value when certain complications are present, viz., chronic nephritis with cardiovascular changes, arteriosclerosis, with degeneration of the myocardium or aortitis, diseases of the liver, skin affections, acute febrile diseases such as pneumonia and typhoid fever.

In cases of diabetes associated with chronic nephritis, when dyspnea and edema occur, Lauritzen recommends one liter of milk and a half liter of cream daily. When improvement is obtained the quantity of milk may be diminished and a mixed diet gradually allowed.

In severe cases of diabetes when acid intoxication (acidosis) occurs, and coma is threatening, a milk diet is indicated, along with large doses of alkalis, with aperients, and cardiac tonics. When the risk of coma does not appear so great, and when dyspepsia and constipation are prominent symptoms, a mixed milk diet is better, along with alkalis and aperients.

In recent and moderately severe cases, in which there is only slight acidosis, the milk diet is not indicated.

2. The "oatmeal treatment" has been recommended by von Noorden. The oatmeal was given in the form of soup; oatmeal (Knorr's) 250 grammes, butter 300 grammes, roborat 100 grammes. A portion of this soup was given every two hours, and at the same time a little wine, cognac or coffee. The oatmeal treatment is continued for two or three weeks. Though oatmeal (Knorr's) contains 73.6 per cent. of carbohydrates the following were the results obtained by von Noorden:

In ten severe cases the tolerance for other carbohydrates