

which, injected intravenously, produces a transient flow of pancreatic juice. To this pancreatic stimulant the name secretin is given. When given by the mouth it appears to be inert.

The fact that it has such marked stimulating action in the cells which secrete the pancreatic juice suggested to some physicians the possibility of the use of secretin as a stimulant of the cells which secrete the internal secretion of the pancreas, and as a remedial agent in glycosuria. This last proposition was tested by several physicians. Some reported favorable results; others unfavorable. In two cases of diabetes which I treated with secretin, given per rectum, no beneficial result was observed. The secretin was prepared from duodena of pigs. Possibly if the secretin had been given intravenously there might have been an improvement in the condition. This is, however, almost impracticable, as in order to keep up a prolonged action on the pancreas one must give injections every few minutes.

THE DIETETIC TREATMENT OF DIABETES MELLITUS.

In connection with this subject I wish only to refer to one point, and that is the importance of relieving the tissues of the excess of sugar. We should always keep in mind that the presence of sugar in the urine is the result of excess of sugar in the blood; and that it has been the experience of all physicians that the latter condition militates against improvement in the capacity of the tissues to utilize sugar. How it interferes with metabolism one cannot say. Possibly by its mass it modifies chemical change.

The first step, therefore, in the dietetic therapy of mild cases and of some of medium severity should be, after determining the capacity of the patient to assimilate sugar, to reduce the carbohydrate in the dietary until at least the sugar disappears from the urine. Moreover, one should not be in a hurry to increase the carbohydrate content of the food, as in many cases an improvement in assimilative power of the tissues returns slowly. Of course while the diabetic is on this dietary, or in fact any other, the urine should be examined at short intervals for the presence of diacetic acid. The presence of considerable diacetic acid is an indication for a change in dietary. The carbohydrate should be increased while the fat and possibly also the protein diminished.