

THE RELATION BETWEEN DIABETES INSIPIDUS AND MELLITUS.

Kuhn publishes the record of a case (*Munch, med. W'och.*, January 21st, 1902) from which he argues that an intimate relationship between the two forms of diabetes exists. The patient was a woman, fifty-eight years of age. She was treated in the hospital, in 1899, for empyema following pneumonia. In 1900 (July) she was again admitted into the hospital, and suffered an amputation of the left breast for a scirrhus cancer. Subsequently, on two occasions, small portions of infiltrated skin were removed. About the beginning of 1901 she complained of excessive thirst and polyuria. She was admitted into the hospital at the end of February on account of these symptoms. The urine had a specific gravity varying between 1002 and 1004, contained no sugar, and was passed in daily quantities varying between 175 and 245 ounces. The diagnosis of diabetes insipidus was then made. She did not improve under treatment. In April she was considerably wasted. The heart was natural, but the beat somewhat rapid (100). She passed about 310 ounces of urine, with a specific gravity of 1006, and no sugar; no albumen, but some indican. On May 3rd she passed 357 ounces of urine (the maximum amount). There was at this time some pyrexia. The quantity of fluid taken in was less than the quantity of urine secreted. A little later the quantity of urine became almost suddenly less and glycosuria appeared. Her general condition rapidly became worse. She slept a great deal, was not clear-minded when awake, and the pyrexia continued. She died on May 28th. The necropsy revealed recurrence of the cancer in the scar of the breast, cancer of various lymphatic glands, cancer of the suprarenal glands, atrophy of the pancreas, small growths in the kidneys, with fatty degeneration (metamorphosis) of the cortex, and growths in the liver. The uterus was absent, and the left ovary and tube, as well as the vagina, which ended in a *cul-de-sac*, alone remained. The patient had denied that any further operation had been performed, but probably the uterus and right appendages had been removed for a new growth, in spite of this statement. Kuhn considers that the change during the last few days of life of the diabetes insipidus into diabetes mellitus is a proof of the close relationship of the two diseases.—*British Medical Journal*.