

which restored him to his normal feelings. The usual cathartic was taken, but no trace of tæmia was seen, and has not been since. The young man seems permanently relieved. The haschisch used was a soft extract.—*Leavenworth Medical Herald*.—*Med. and Surg. Jour.*

Report of a case of Diabetes Mellitus Successfully Treated by Opium without Restriction of Diet.

By F. W. PAVY, M.D.

The patient in this case was a woman aged 68 years, who, previously to the attack of diabetes, enjoyed good health, and whose occupation was that of a nurse in private families. Four years before coming under Dr. Pavy's observation she began to suffer from inordinate thirst, and two years later it was definitely ascertained that there was sugar in her urine. When Dr. Pavy first saw her she was passing five pints of urine in twenty-four hours. Upon her admission into Guy's Hospital, an alkaline draught was ordered for her, and through a mistake she continued to take this as long as she remained in the hospital, but it was thought to have had little or no influence upon the result. Her diet was unrestricted, and included meat, bread, potatoes, and beer, besides which she had four oz. of brandy and two bottles of soda-water daily. At first $1\frac{1}{2}$ grains of opium were administered daily for three days; then 3 grains for the same length of time; then $4\frac{1}{2}$ grains, then 6 grains, and so on until the daily dose reached $10\frac{1}{2}$ grains, which produced so great a degree of drowsiness as to induce a discontinuance of the treatment for five days, at the end of which time it was resumed, and 3 grains of opium given. As before, the dose was gradually increased until it amounted to 12 grains, and then, as no sugar had been detected in the urine for more than a month, the dose was gradually diminished. The first effect of the opium was to cause a diminution in the quantity of urine, while it temporarily increased the amount of sugar excreted. On the eighth day a decided diminution in the quantity of sugar passed was noticed, and with the exception of occasional fluctuations this diminution was progressive up to the sixty-sixth day of the treatment, when only a trace could be found; the next day none could be detected, and after this there was only a trace until the eighty-eighth day, when it disappeared permanently. With the improvement in the state of urine there was corresponding improvement in the general health of the patient. The patient appeared before the Society seven months after her discharge from the hospital, and seemed to be in perfect

health. Her urine on being tested was found not to contain sugar.

Dr. Pavy also alludes to other cases which have been similarly treated also with success. In one case the patient, a man aged 50, after having had the amount of sugar in his urine reduced to 1,000 grains by means of a restricted diet, took opium in doses which were gradually increased until $10\frac{1}{2}$ grains was the quantity taken daily, when the sugar disappeared from the urine, but in consequence of its reappearance the dose was gradually increased to 13 grains, when it again disappeared, and its subsequent reappearance was distinctly traceable to errors of diet. Another case is referred to in which morphia was substituted for opium, but unfortunately the patient left the hospital too soon for any decided effect to be produced, although the quantity of urine and its specific gravity had diminished. Still another case is reported, that of a man aged 29 years, in which the gradual increase of the dose of opium up to $13\frac{1}{2}$ grains caused the disappearance of the sugar from the urine on the thirty-ninth day. The dose of the drug was still further increased to $22\frac{1}{2}$ grains without the occurrence of disagreeable symptoms. On the contrary, the patient is said to have gained sixteen pounds. Dr. Pavy believes that the forms of the disease in which the opium treatment is most efficacious are those occurring in elderly people, in whom it has been observed to assume its mildest form. In the young and middle aged, on the other hand, the disease is generally of a more severe character, and the opium treatment will rarely alone suffice for its care.—*American Journal Medical Science*.

Sebaceous Tumours of the Cranial Region.

To the practical surgeon, the removal of a sebaceous tumour from the scalp must ever be a subject of no little anxiety; not on account of the operation itself, for that is an easy matter, but on account of the terrible consequences which now and then follow an operation of this kind.

The operation itself is a very slight one; so slight, indeed, that nothing is thought of it, either by the patient or by the friends; and as to the results, there is not the slightest misgiving. The tumour is removed, and all appears to be going on well, when suddenly erysipelas of the scalp supervenes; and, worse still, this operation, so trifling, is sometimes followed by purulent infection and all its terrible consequences.

With the possibility of such results, all the more distressing because the whole matter was apparently so slight, it behooves the surgeon carefully to guard