

## AUTHOR'S PREFACE

THE subject-matter of this volume formed the theme of a series of eight lectures delivered during the summer session of 1912 in the Physiological Laboratory of the University of London. In preparing the lectures for publication the original plan has in general been adhered to, although here and there considerable alterations have been thought advisable.

No attempt is made to review the whole field of diabetes. On the contrary, attention has been given only to those investigations that have a more or less direct bearing on the nature of the abnormal condition or conditions in the animal body that are the cause of the disease.

It is believed by those who have had extensive clinical experience that every person who has a low tolerance towards carbohydrates is to be considered as a mild case of diabetes, even although he may be otherwise in perfect health. The condition, left untreated, may, or may not, develop into the acute disease, but it seems to be an established fact that the tendency to do so can be greatly minimized by appropriate dietary control, by which also the risk of complications is much lessened.

To apply this prophylactic treatment successfully no empirical rule for all cases can be laid down. It is necessary that each case be treated as a problem in itself, and that it be frequently examined, and the diet adjusted so as to meet its peculiar requirements. The physicians who have had most success with such cases are those who, by close attention to the results of experimental investigations, have a thorough knowledge of the physiological processes that become upset in the disease. Many of these physicians have themselves taken part in the experimental work. For those who cannot find time to do this it is hoped