

disease. For if the diabetes is kept mild or moderate the coma need not be feared.

Next to the children in the frequency of death from coma, strange as it may appear, were those of my cases who succumbed during the first year of the disease. The cause of death in eighty-seven per cent. of these was coma. But diabetes is a chronic disease and the first year of its course should be mild rather than severe, and in mild diabetes coma should find no place.

Just as the health officials of a city, zealous to lower its death rate, concentrate their efforts on those sections of the city with the highest mortality, so should we, in the treatment of diabetes, concentrate our efforts where mortality is also greatest—on the children and on those patients who have recently developed the disease. To-night attention will be directed upon the treatment following immediately upon the detection of the disease, for this is where the highest mortality in diabetes now exists.

Reference has just been made to a mortality of 87 per cent. from coma among diabetics who die during the first year of the disease. Is the term "first year of the disease" quite accurate? It is meant to be accurate. I have most conscientiously tried to fix a definite date for the onset of diabetes in all my cases. But honestly would it not be more truthful to say the first year of the recognition of the disease? And herein lies a vast difference, which gives rise to serious reflection, for it is in the first year of the *recognition* of the disease that treatment is begun, and the highest mortality occurs. Disagreeable as such an implication is to hear, some support of it is afforded by the fact that with the increase in the knowledge of the treatment of diabetes, the mortality for the first year of the disease has decreased. It is significant that whereas between the years 1824—1898, of those cases of diabetes dying at the Massachusetts General Hospital, the duration of the disease was under one year in 68 per cent.; for the subsequent fifteen years ending November, 1913, Dr. Brigham and I are able to say, thanks to the courtesy of the hospital authorities, that the mortality during the first year of the disease had fallen to 41 per cent. My friend Professor Naunyn, whom all of you will recognize as a master of diabetes, though his case must have been treated during the generation previous to ten years ago, showed a mortality of only 28.2 per cent., which was the same, as far as I can determine, for the city of Boston for 1915. The period of my