

considerable difficulty in according with his opinion. We are far from thinking that the question, respecting the primary seat of the disease, is satisfactorily determined, in favor of either hypothesis. Many facts, and much attentive observation are wanting to decide this point. From the most attentive consideration of all the circumstances, the weight of evidence appears to lean in favor of the supposition of Diabetes depending on a primary affection of the kidneys; others, no doubt, as facts happen to strike them, will join the author in his conclusions. The final determination of the question must still remain *sub judice*.

That there is considerable affection of the kidneys in all instances of the disease, has been allowed. (In two post mortem examinations, wherein I chiefly directed my attention to the state of the kidneys, I found them much enlarged and lax and also, producing a strong sour smell.) The intimate connexion of the stomach and kidneys is well established, and, that an affection of either should occasion irregularity in the action of the other, can be easily conceived. So far, therefore, the irregularities of appetite and digestion, may as well depend upon kidney affection, as the contrary. The dry tongue, and other marks of increased action in the system, are also referable to a morbid state of the kidneys; and this could not be inconsiderable, if it was sufficient to excite pain, and a sense of uneasiness, not in the loins only, but through the whole course of the urinary organs. With respect to the production of Sugar in Diabetes, the question is, where is it formed? If in the stomach, then ought to be evident in what is thrown up, at a certain stage of digestion, which has never been shewn. If the kidneys merely separate it from the blood, along with the other saline matter, the serum of the blood should shew it more strikingly than it ever appears to have done. There can be no difficulty in supposing the kidneys capable of forming or secreting sugar, under a peculiar action. We find the breasts separating, or rather forming this substance copiously: it is not probable, as has been supposed, that the milk is a portion of the Chyle merely, for milk is secreted freely long after weaning; there is a considerable difference in the properties of the two fluids. Is not the milk of carnivorous animals as sweet as that of the herbivorous tribe? Is a diseased state of the kidneys ever produced by large quantities of sugar being taken as food, as is the case in the West Indies—and, does the urine in such cases contain sugar. These questions, if answered, would probably throw some light on the subject.

I have so far extended my observations—observations, for which in a great measure, I remain indebted to others. It is, however, a disease so fatal in its consequences, and so baffling to the application of the attributes of our exalted Science, that I almost despair of offering any strictly remedial suggestions. Yet, this extraordinary disease having proved fatal to a very near friend,—a personage, the most illustrious and popular throughout the British nation, my attention has been engaged for upwards of twenty-five years upon the subject.

I shall now proceed to offer one or two cases, out of a great number which have fallen under my immediate care—and bearing as nearly as possible to the indications of a favorable result. These, I shall also premise by a few observations.

(To be continued in our next number.)