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Original Articles

THE INTER-RELATIONS OF DIABETES AND OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL STATES.*

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The great error dominating conceptions of disease in their clinical and therapeutic aspects is that which fixes upon one symptom as a test of disease rather than the symptom complex. Perhaps in no disorder is this better illustrated than in diabetes. The predominant symptom of diabetes is glycosuria. This condition may not only be an expression of many diseases, but may be at times merely the result of excess in carbo-hydrates. Glycosuria occurs in all the neuroses, not as a complication, but as an expression of metabolic instability, resultant on nerve disturbance. The vaso-motor nerves of the liver have their origin in the floor of the fourth ventricle, and pass through the cervical and upper dorsal regions of the spinal cord, the rami communicating opposite the fourth or fifth dorsal vertebræ to join the sympathetic and enter the liver as the hepatic plexus. Injury to the fibres at their origin in the fourth ventricle, in any part of the spinal cord, or of the sympathetic itself, is followed by glycosuria. Conditions such as express themselves in glycosuria and allied sub-oxidations readily occur in the neuroses. Hysteria may be

* Read at Canadian Medical Association, London, Ont., August 26th, 1903.