

says Dr. Dawson, "with proposers up to 45 or 50 are to treat copper reductions as due to sugar and glycosuria as diabetic unless there is evidence to the contrary. In the absence of such evidence, the case must be regarded as diabetes *in posse* if not *in esse* and the proposal declined, or in special circumstances, accepted for a short term at high rates."

W. F. H.

STEWART AND RITCHIE. *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, May, 1907.

The dose of tuberculin R. found most suitable in the case of adults was 1-500 mgrm., and in children under 12 1-1000 mgrm.

The term "negative phase" is used to indicate the diminution of the tuberculo-opsonic index which follows the inoculation of an infected person with tuberculin. The depth of the negative phase, as a rule, is less where the primary index is low than where it is high. The usual fall in a tuberculous patient was 0.2.

The tuberculous cases which were inoculated number 62, and include all the more common forms of medical and surgical tuberculosis. In 56 of these cases a negative phase was obtained. This represents a proportion of 90.3 per cent. In 13 cases, either normal or suffering from diseases other than tuberculosis, in no instance did the observers obtain a negative phase after inoculation with similar doses.

The following conclusions are drawn:

1. A single estimation of the opsonic index is an unsatisfactory method of diagnosis, as both tuberculous and non-tuberculous cases fall within and without normal limits.

2. If a negative phase appears after inoculation, the presence of tuberculosis may be diagnosed.

3. The absence of a negative phase indicates the absence of a tuberculous infection.

The method which the authors advocate, as may be seen, compares favourably with all that has been claimed for the reliability of the old tuberculin test. It has, however, the distinctive advantages of being applicable to any and every case, of interfering in no way with the patient's ordinary avocation. The tuberculin employed is a bacillary product, and is free from such toxins as the old tuberculin contained. The dose given is a small one, being within the therapeutic limit. This quantity has been given now in scores of cases and no instance of harmful effects or discomfort attributable to it.—(*Medical Review of Reviews*, Aug., '07.)