

gested carbohydrates into fat, instead of into their customary end products.

Cushing has shown that injection of pituitary extract into dogs causes regularly a glycosuria and the blood shows a hyperglycaemia as proven by quantitative analysis. He suggests the explanation that this hyperglycaemia and glycosuria may be due to the pituitary secretion causing an increased glycogenolysis in the liver. Whether this be the true explanation, or whether it be due to the pituitary secretion having an inhibitory action on the special internal ferment of the pancreas, remains to be demonstrated by further experiments.

It will be readily seen that these researches of Cushing and his pupils have a most important clinical bearing. "As polyuria is apt to be associated with these pituitary lesions, whether experimentally produced or the outcome of disease, a clinical picture readily mistaken for diabetes mellitus or insipidus may be present. It is not improbable, furthermore, that the temporary glycosurias following fractures of the base of the skull are induced by trauma of the posterior lobe or its infundibular attachment—glycosurias in other words which are comparable to and which follow on the operative manipulation of these structures." (Cushing.)

From the foregoing it is obviously apparent that the question of carbohydrate metabolism in health and in diabetes is a complicated one. Every year new light is being thrown on the problem. While positive proof that all cases of diabetes are due to disturbance of the normal function of the pancreas is still lacking, yet it is the conviction of the writer that eventually it will be shown that most, if not all, of the cases are due to absence of the special internal secretion of the pancreas or to interference or retardation of its function by the active principle of some one or other of the various ductless glands. Although, as yet, these researches have given us little assistance in the treatment of diabetes along the lines of organo-therapy, yet the writer is encouraged in the belief that the future holds out the prospect of encouraging results in this direction.