

THE ETIOLOGY AND ELIMINATION OF DIABETES.*

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Contrary to all accepted authority, the author of this remarkable paper contends that *diabetes is never a primary disease*; it is merely he declares, a frequent concomitant symptom or sequela of either an inherited or acquired condition of the system which *is* primary, and which is as amenable to *appropriate treatment*, as any ordinary disease.

The unsuccessful and unsatisfactory results which, up to the present time have attended all proposed methods of treatment, is attributed to the fact that its pathogenesis has not been properly understood.

Derangements of the liver, the kidneys, the nervous system and the spleen have, each, in turn, been considered the *offending cause* of this most serious affection, and there is probably no case which does not exhibit a lesion of one or more of the organs mentioned. But as the "immediate cause of diabetes is something which interferes with the proper oxidation of certain elements of food, and as the presence of sugar in the urine occurs from, or is accompanied with lesions in organs differing greatly in structure and function, may there not be some common cause which, owing to an inherent or acquired weakness of one or the other of the organs mentioned, is able so to interfere with its normal action that oxidation is inhibited to a degree sufficient to induce the affection we are considering."

The author not only believes this view of causation to be correct, but he is satisfied that he has discovered the common cause—"the disturbing element which is responsible for the existence of every case of diabetes irrespective of the nature of location of the lesions to which it most directly relates."

"This common and potent cause is syphilis—that nemesis of evil-doers, which ruthlessly invades every organ and tissue of the body and with its blighting touch vitiates every secretion and deranges every function."

"This discovery is not the forced assumption of a theory, it is one of the results of the observations and investigations begun twenty-five years ago and carried on for a long period, for the purpose of discovering the cause of interstitial gingivitis, a suppurative disease of the alveolar process."

*Abstract of a paper read before the American Electro-Therapeutic Association.