

50 per cent. of the cases. These patients mostly suffer from a severe form of the disease ; 81 per cent. are under the age of fifty years ; frequently there is great emaciation, and the cases are often at an advanced age.

2. In private practice, amongst patients who live under more favorable conditions, and in the milder forms of the disease occurring in gouty or well-nourished people over the age of fifty years, the proportion of cases in which the knee-jerks are absent will be much less. (Knee-jerks were absent in 16.7 per cent. of private patients. Eichorst gives the following: Knee-jerks were absent in only 7.6 per cent. Grube of Neuenahr says the same in patients over fifty years.)

3. The knee-jerks when present at an earlier period are frequently lost or diminished later. During the last few days of life the knee-jerks are lost in 73 per cent. of hospital diabetic patients in Manchester.

4. They were lost in 18 out of 21 cases of diabetic coma (86 per cent.)

5. Amongst diabetic hospital patients the knee-jerks are more frequently lost under the age of thirty years than over thirty.

6. Since the course of diabetes mellitus depends on so many circumstances, it is somewhat difficult to estimate the exact prognostic value of one symptom, which is occasionally absent even to the last ; but the above facts and considerations seem to show clearly that the loss of knee-jerks is more frequently associated with unfavorable prognostic indications.—*St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal*, August.

RHEUMATIC AFFECTIONS OF THE HEART IN CHILDHOOD AND EARLY ADOLESCENCE.

J. F. H. Broadbent (*Edin. Med. Jour.*, Vol. XLV, No. 515, p. 473) remarks that although the articular manifestations of rheumatism in childhood and early adolescence are, as a rule, slight, and may be confined to fugitive pains or stiffness in the joints or limbs, with little or no constitutional disturbance, the rheumatic poison may all the time be attacking the heart and setting up endocarditis, pericarditis, or myocarditis in conjunction with one or both of the former. Owing to the insidious nature of the inflammatory process, irreparable damage may be done before the severity of the cardiac symptoms compels the patient to seek medical advice or take to his bed. An illustration of a case in point is given, in which from the time the boy, aged 14 years, first developed some stiffness in the knees until the time of his death, a period of