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ON DIABETES MELLITUS.

BY DR. VON IFFLAND.

Few diseases have more excited the particular attention of Physicians, and have more frequently been made the subject of particular enquiry, than Diabetes Mellitus.

It is a disease, the nature and causes of which are so obscure and uncertain, that the most accurate Physicians have been unable to determine them ; and so obstinate in its resistance to almost every mode of cure, that every means, which long experience has ever recommended, or theories suggested, have failed.

It may, however, be observed that several important circumstances, as are well known to the body of general Practitioners, induced the late Dr. Rollo, holding high rank in the *Ord. Medical Department*, to publish the result of his experience and observations on this interesting disease ; and whatever opinion may be entertained of his theory, till now unconfirmed by the concurrent testimony of other eminent Physicians, the well attested facts he adduces are certainly entitled to great attention, and also confer a considerable degree of value on his labour.

The symptoms which generally characterise this extraordinary disease, are, excessive thirst, voracious appetite, tongue white and moist, saliva frothy and sweet, countenance florid, skin dry and cold, pulse weak ; great sense of pain after eating ; gums reddish, and bleeding from the least friction, and a *great discharge of urine*, which by evaporation may sometimes produce about an ounce and even an ounce and a half of saccharine matter to every pound evacuated, tenacious and of the consistence of wax—strongly smelling of molasses, and which extract is well known, when mixed with Nitrous Acid, to produce the Oxalic Acid, and which, in appearance, smell and taste, can scarcely be distinguished from honey. These symptoms I have, however, seen to vary much in certain cases, particularly the tongue, which is sometimes found very foul, with bright scarlet edges, and the salivary excretions,