

to relieve symptoms, or to meet emergencies. They are indispensable for such purposes, but we should always remember that they are powerless against an organic injurious change going on in the living mechanism. All which a functional medicine can do is to deal with a temporary derangement, not in the structure but in the working, that is, in the function of the body; and this it does immediately in one dose. But no specifically permanent changes should be expected from it. Opium may affect the symptom, sugar in the urine, by temporarily diminishing it, but it has no effect on the disease causing that symptom.

We must look elsewhere in such a constitutional disease as diabetes than to such functional medicines as opium, and I notice that of late experience is leading many physicians to abandon its use in this disease. For a number of years I have advocated the free use of cod-liver oil in diabetes. I was specially led to do this by its remarkable effect in the case of two brothers whom I treated thirty-two years ago. The first, an active business man, aged thirty-five, came to me with polyuria, thirst, emaciation and progressive loss of strength, for which he had been treated unavailingly for a year with the usual course of diet and drugs. He then took larger doses of cod-liver oil than any patient in my experience, for he said that he never measured it, but took it directly from the bottle as a drink, followed by Vichy water. In another year's time he was cured, and he has remained well ever since. His brother, two years younger, came to me the following year with much the same condition, as far as the great quantity of sugar in the urine was concerned, but he suffered in addition from general bronchitis. He found that he could stomach cod-liver oil as well as his brother, and with equally good results. The younger the patient, the more persistently I urge the taking of this remedy, and I adopt every resource to make its free use possible by the patient, by the administration with it of pepsin and bismuth. So long as the stomach does not rebel, diabetic patients of this class cannot take too much cod-liver oil. Whether this oil acts as a substitute for the starchy elements, or whether it spares the proteids from disintegration, or whether it acts as a nerve food, or whether as an empirical fact I can testify that it both diminishes