

Before coming to the hospital the patient had been treated for months with iod. potassium. In regard to etiology, while there was no evidence of a general arterio-sclerosis, the post mortem examinations showed the presence of atheroma in the arch, and the dilatation doubtless began in the early stage of the process, induced by the patient's arduous work. This alone, with a predisposition to incompetent vessels, may suffice to account for her condition, but the miscarriages suggest a specific taint as an etiological factor, although her condition and history gave no direct evidence of its presence. Yet her age would suggest the probability of some such special cause leading to the early change in the central arterial system. Death was due to cardiac exhaustion.

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## Selected Articles.

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### POINTS CONNECTED WITH THE PATHOLOGY<sup>\*</sup> AND TREATMENT OF DIABETES.\*

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MR. PRESIDENT, COLLEAGUES AND GENTLEMEN—I appear before you to-day to draw your attention to points connected with the pathology and treatment of diabetes. They constitute the outcome of the study which formed the basis of the Croonian Lectures delivered by me in 1894 and of the study I have since conducted. Disease is a deviation from health, and for its proper comprehension we require to have a knowledge of the conditions belonging to health. It is just this in the case of diabetes that it has been difficult to obtain, and the complaint has stood as one of the most inscrutable of diseases. The question first presented for solution is, How does carbohydrate normally become disposed of in the system? Next follows the question, What is it that gives rise to its unnatural escape with the urine?

Briefly stated, diabetes may be said to consist of a malapplication of the carbohydrate principles of food. Common observation teaches us that when the various forms of carbohydrate matter are taken by a healthy person with the food, they become lost sight of and contribute to the benefit of the system. The system has the power of placing them in a position to be susceptible of utilization, and they thus disappear from view with resultant good. In the case of the diabetic, however, the carbohydrate matter that

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\* Supplementary Croonian Lecture delivered before the Royal College of Physicians of London on November 13, 1897.