

for five or six weeks. The benefits obtained by using the acid were greater in this case than in the other. Before beginning the acid the specific gravity ranged from 1.040 to about 1.044; under it, from about 1.030 to 1.040, with great but not continuous diminution of the amount of sugar. The quantity of urine was small, four or five pints per 24 hours. The strength and spirits returned, the color improved during the first two weeks treatment, and this improvement was maintained during the remainder of the time. It was evident however, that a suspension of the treatment would permit the physical depression to return, and hence it could not be at all called curative. Hence it was abandoned. Under other treatment this case made a more decided improvement. She died on Aug. 6th, from what, I presume, to be obstruction of the bowels, after a very brief acute illness. As her residence is beyond the limits of my visiting practice, I did not see the case to this termination.

Commentary.—I infer that the administration of lactic acid to the amount of three or four drams per day, has some decided power over the disease. It will diminish the secretion of urine, lessen the amount of sugar *at the same time* and along with it the specific gravity. Also the symptoms immediately dependent upon the march of the disease were all ameliorated. Beyond this remarkable power over diabetes it is doubtful in my mind if it has reliable curative power. If the reader will examine Cantani's treatment he will see that it is predicated upon rational principles. It is to be hoped that further investigation, rationally and not empirically conducted will lead to better results in this hitherto unmanageable disease. I may say that I do not think so highly of the treatment as to have placed a third case which has since occurred in my practice upon it. Both qualities of acid were used, the syrupy in consistence and that of watery consistence. Its expense, about \$5 per pound wholesale, is a bar to very prolonged trial of it.

I may add that the pains produced by the acid apparently in the first did not occur with the second. They did not occur in the first case either with the acid obtained from Montreal. On one occasion only was the pain in the first case described as being in the knee-joints for a day. I observed nothing analogous to the phenomena of acute arthritic rheumatism which other observers have noticed.