

the possibility of slight hyperglycemia in apparently healthy persons, who, however, may not be actually healthy but pre-disposed to infections, eczema, neuritis and other affections, which are common complications of diabetes mellitus. Of course, this suggestion is based on the theory that excess of sugar in the blood and lymph is an important etiological factor of many of the complications of diabetes mellitus, which, I believe, is the opinion of all physicians. There is much evidence in favor of this view. One has only to observe the rapid improvement in this condition, particularly the mental state, of many diabetics when placed on a dietary which causes the glycosuria to disappear, to be convinced. However, there are, no doubt, other causes of the complications of diabetes mellitus. One of these is, no doubt, the condition of the pancreas and other tissues which give rise to the glycosuria. If their functions involving metabolism of carbohydrates are depressed, then surely their other functions, such as those involving immunity, are also diminished. Moreover, it is possible for this functional asthenia of cells to exist before glycosuria becomes a manifestation of the condition, and even before the appearance of hyperglycemia. To me this is a plausible theory and affords an explanation of some clinical observation which I have observed, particularly in persons who are intemperate in eating.

HYPERALIMENTATION AS A CAUSE OF GLYCOSURIA AND OTHER DISEASES.

The relationship of hyperalimentation to disease has not received the attention it deserves. When a person is subject to forced feeding there is usually an increase of the protein and probably also of the fat and glycogen of the body. This in some debilitated states has, no doubt, a beneficial effect on the health of the patient. In other cases I should think that the result would be injurious, especially when the overalimentation is associated with little physical exercise. The clogging of tissues with foodstuffs must necessarily interfere with the functions of the cells, both as regards metabolism and their defensive action in the body. This view is in accord with my clinical observations, as my experience in practice teaches me that overeating is frequently an important etiological factor of glycosuria, boils, eczema and many other diseases. This cannot be, as a rule, proved by scientific methods, because one does not know the normal capacity of each individual. For example, a man at forty years of age may be able to take care