



EDITORIAL

HYPOPITUITARISM AND DIABETIC RETINOPATHY

In this issue, Dr. J. E. Poulsen has reported the final course and postmortem findings of the well-known patient who developed Sheehan's syndrome while suffering from diabetic retinopathy with impaired vision.

The report of substantial regression of the retinopathy (DIABETES 2:7-12, 1953) triggered the subsequent effort to evaluate the role of the pituitary gland in diabetic retinopathy.

Cautious students and investigators recognize the dangers of drawing inferences based on data obtained in a single patient. Controversy continues concerning the desirability of ablating the pituitary or adrenal glands in

diabetic subjects with advancing retinitis. Nevertheless, Dr. Poulsen's second report provides the longest continual study of a patient with documented hypopituitarism with diabetic retinopathy whose retinal lesion regressed so as to save vision. This long period (fifteen years) from the beginning of remission to death without recurrence of retinal hemorrhages will serve to encourage further studies of induced hypopituitarism or adrenal insufficiency in comparable patients with advancing retinopathy in attempting to control this disabling complication.

The persistence of diffuse intercapillary glomerulosclerosis and progressive renal insufficiency in Dr. Poulsen's case, as in many others with induced hypopituitarism, indicates that the renal basement membrane changes may not be modified by hypopituitarism. The significant gain has been the cessation of retinal capillary hemorrhages and their sequelae in sufficient numbers of cases of advancing diabetic retinitis proliferans so as to warrant continued careful clinical and experimental investigation of hypopituitarism, however induced, and its role in arresting diabetic retinitis.

IRVING GRAEF, M.D.
New York

Allen R. Hennes 1924-1965

Allen R. Hennes, M.D., Professor of Medicine at Wayne State University, died suddenly in Detroit, Michigan, on Nov. 22, 1965. He was in his forty-second year.

He received his degree from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1949 and completed his graduate clinical training there in 1955. After a further year at Michigan in the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, he joined the Department of Biochemistry at Brookhaven National Laboratory as an Assistant Scientist. In 1957 he was appointed Assistant Chief of Medicine at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Oklahoma City. He held this position until 1960 when he joined the faculty of Wayne State University College of Medicine. At the time of his death, he was Chief of the Section of Endocrinology.

Among the medical organizations in which he held membership were The Alpha Omega Alpha Society, The

Central Society for Clinical Research, the American Diabetes Association, and The American College of Physicians.

Allen Hennes was a fine person and a valued friend. A little over two years ago the glow of his health flickered, and he knew then that he should have reduced his responsibilities to a more average level. Characteristically, the threat was ignored and his range of commitments extended; at the same time family life with his wife and two sons deepened, becoming an even greater source of satisfaction to him.

His independent mind and quiet sense of fun made him a good companion under any circumstances. More than upright in the conduct of his own life, he was sympathetic to the shortcomings of others and his judgments were rarely harsh. An underlying shyness always had to be overcome before his convictions could assert themselves, but he had his convictions, and from the