

in a Hog the Sweet bread. It is a remarkable kernel placed below the Ventricle, and serves for a division of the Vena porta, as also to defend the Ventricle from touching the back. . . . Ventricle, is the stomach, or that part which receives the meat and drink, being swallowed down, and which hath in it self the virtue of digestion."

The volume contains in the preface, a poem which may be quoted in conclusion. Although its meaning is

obscure, it illustrates the scholarly mind of a medical writer of the 17th century.

The intricate and hidden cause of things,  
Both Peace and Strife by what means Nature brings,  
What various motions Bodies do inspire;  
What mixes with the Waters quenchless Fire,  
What Bonds the Elements together tye,  
Before this happier Age unfolded lye:  
Things hid to former Ages, and unknown,  
The Secrets of the World to all are shown.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**TREATMENT OF DIABETES MELLITUS.** By Elliott P. Joslin, A.M., M.D., Sc.D.; Howard F. Root, M.D.; Priscilla White, M.D., Sc.D.; and Alexander Marble, A.M., M.D.; New England Deaconess Hospital, Boston, Mass. Ninth Edition, thoroughly revised. Cloth. \$12.00. Pp. 772 with 26 illustrations. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia. 1952.

An assignment to review this book is something like an assignment to review the Encyclopedia Britannica. For the student of diabetes there is such a great wealth of information here, current knowledge is so fully recognized and treated, experience of the authors is so broad and organization so effective that there is little to say except that everything worth knowing is contained therein. No similar work can approach it in com-

pleteness and authoritativeness. With frequent and intelligent revision none may do so for a long time to come. Continuity in responsible authorship, under firm leadership, is the chief reason why this is true.

From the publishing standpoint the new (ninth) edition is a handsome job. The reasons for this are a rich, green cloth cover, more type area per page and lighter paper stock, so the book is noticeably thinner and easier to handle. There is more attractive type in paragraph and chapter headings. In comparison with the eighth edition, printed six years ago, it has a streamlined look but is easily recognizable as an old friend in new clothes.

The plan of organization of the contents remains the same. In sequence the background, incidence, na-

ture, characteristics and treatment of uncomplicated diabetes are described. These sections are followed systematically by thorough discussions of various complications and associated diseases, the four chief authors taking turns in assignment with assists in special fields by others in the group. One previous major author is now missing.

On the whole a thorough job of revision has been accomplished. There are few sections which do not show, at the very least, minor insertions, deletions and elaborations. This reviewer is impressed the most by several radical changes, all decidedly for the better. First, there is Dr. Marble's concise summary, to a large extent new, of the physiology of diabetes, the intermediate chemistry of carbohydrate metabolism, the action of insulin, endocrine relationships, and forms of experimental diabetes. Then there is the valuable new chapter of the pathology of diabetes by Drs. Shields Warren and Philip Le Compte. A beautiful page of colored microphotographs is included here. These authors shrewdly call attention to the possible role of the mucoproteins in the pathogenesis of vascular and renal complications of diabetes, as Dr. Root has done elsewhere.

The title of the book is too modest. Much more than the treatment of diabetes mellitus is described between its covers. The chapter on treatment has been rewritten in a more practical and simplified form. Good justification for seeking control of glycosuria and hyperglycemia as perfectly as possible is given convincingly by Dr. Joslin.

Dr. Root has brought the important section on vascular and renal complications of diabetes into current focus. Certainly the mechanism of their causation is as yet unknown, but a valuable service has been rendered by the fact that this competent and experienced authority has assembled most of the known facts in one place.

The section on skin disorders has been rewritten by Dr. Marble and that on urinary tract disease by Dr. Styron. Surgery in diabetic patients, the behavior of gangrene and its treatment, and Dr. McKittrick's indications and techniques for the important transmetatarsal amputation, by virtue of which many serviceable feet are now saved, are described in considerable detail.

Dr. White relates her experiences with diabetic children and pregnant women. She re-emphasizes the importance of hormonal imbalance in the production of high rates of fetal mortality and maternal toxemia, and of improvement in these rates by means of treatment with estrogens during pregnancy. She calls attention to the comparative mildness of the diabetes in

other series in which fetal mortality and maternal morbidity have been low even without the use of hormones.

It is difficult to be critical of such a wealth of information recorded so faithfully. Some, including this reviewer, have felt that too free use of actuarial methods has detracted from the descriptive value of the study. Just because a group of diabetics shows given characteristics, on the average, it does not follow that every person in the group will exhibit these characteristics, of course. Yet one often gains the impression that the authors would have the reader believe that this is so. Probably this is only a method of teaching what the usual pattern is. Certainly no better teachers exist than these authors.

Dr. Joslin's group deserves the grateful thanks of all who are interested in diabetes. This precious accumulation of facts about the disease, the complete reviews of the literature to supplement personal observations and the conscientious revisions of the textbook periodically are contributions of lasting merit. No student of the disease can afford not to possess this newest version of a standard and now famous work.

**DIABETIC GLOMERULOSCLEROSIS: *The specific renal disease of diabetes mellitus.*** By Harold Rifkin, M.D., Louis Leiter, M.D., Ph.D., and James Berkman, M.D. \$3.50 98 pp. Illustrated. Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1952.

This small monograph of about 100 pages reviews the recent literature pertaining to diabetic glomerulosclerosis and details the clinical and laboratory findings in 44 cases diagnosed during life at the Montefiore Hospital in New York. The numerous illustrations are excellent. The tables are well organized, easily read and informative. The value of the book is enhanced by an alphabetically arranged bibliography and an index which includes both subjects and authors.

The topic is introduced by an account of a typical advanced case. There follow a half-dozen case reports, including autopsies, illustrating the ways in which this picture may be altered and even obscured by accompanying and sometimes independent conditions such as hypertensive disease, arteriosclerosis, congestive failure and glomerulonephritis.

The specificity of the glomerular lesions for diabetes has been questioned by some. The authors believe that, although there may be uncertainty on this score with respect to early or minimal lesions, the more severe forms, in which the majority of the glomeruli are involved with spherical hyaline bodies, are practically