

pathognomonic of diabetic renal disease. Regarding the composition of these nodules, reference is made to the likelihood that, in view of their affinity for the periodic acid-Schiff reagent as reported by McManus, they contain a glycoprotein. The fact that the microaneurysms of the retina have similar staining reactions is noted, but the intriguing possibility raised by this fact, namely that the glomerular and the retinal lesions may have a common pathogenesis, is not given the attention it deserves.

Clear thinking concerning the underlying causes of the syndrome is evident in several places. For example, ". . . the majority of reports emphasize that the most frequent occurrence of diabetic glomerulosclerosis is among patients in the sixth and seventh decades of life, but so is the highest incidence of diabetes." In discussing the relationship between the duration of diabetes and the occurrence of the renal disorder, the authors emphasize, and document, the difficulty of determining onset and hence duration of diabetes. Refuting the idea that long duration is a necessary precursor, they cite the finding by Derow and Schlesinger (1949) of advanced intercapillary glomerulosclerosis in the right kidney of a diabetic woman only four years after the absence of such lesions had been established in the left kidney which had been removed for suspected tumor. In considering the relationship of the specific renal lesion to the degree of control of diabetes they state, quite properly, "The question of control is obviously related to the duration of diabetes because the longer the latter the more tedious and difficult the former."

For the most part the clinical data are similar to those of other investigators. The causes of death among autopsied patients are divided equally between uremia and cardiovascular disease, the two together accounting for 85 per cent of such deaths.

The chapter on laboratory aids in diagnosis is especially valuable in pointing out that in doubtful or complicated cases the finding of doubly refractile fat in the cells or casts of the urinary sediment is the best single indicator of diabetic glomerulosclerosis, provided glomerulonephritis can be excluded. None of the patients with generalized arteriosclerosis and hypertensive renal vascular disease showed this finding. The exclu-

sion of glomerulonephritis may be difficult, but helpful criteria are given for this purpose.

Although recognizing that intercapillary glomerulosclerosis cannot be said to be entirely preventable at present, the authors are impressed by the recent studies of the Joslin group which demonstrate a significantly higher incidence of this and other vascular disorders in patients whose diabetes has been poorly controlled as compared with those under good control.

LIVER INJURY. *Transactions of the Tenth Conference, May 21-22, 1951. F. W. Hoffbauer, Editor. Pp. 320, \$3.75. Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, New York, 1951.*

Volumes recording the transactions of the Macy Conferences have become known among scientific readers for their interesting presentation of factual data and speculations by outstanding investigators in the field under discussion. The conferences, and the volumes, owe much of their success to an informality which serves to break down barriers to exchange of ideas among the participants.

This volume on liver injury has the same quality of informality as its predecessors. It includes several sections, each composed of one or two opening presentations by able investigators and discussion by the other participants. Material on serum proteins and lipids is introduced by Roy H. Turner; lipotropic factors by Camillo Artom and David Cayer; experimental ischemia of the liver and hepatic coma by A. M. Rappaport; micro-anatomy of the hepatic vascular system by B. G. Maegraith; effect of insulin on the liver in normal and diabetic man by Sheila Sherlock, A. G. Bearn and B. Billing and liver disease in Jamaican children by Kenneth R. Hill.

Of particular interest to the reader who is concerned with diabetes are the studies of Sheila Sherlock and associates of the University of London on the effect of insulin on the production of glucose by the liver in 43 normal and 39 diabetic subjects. For these studies catheterization of hepatic vein was employed. Sherlock's presentation forms the basis for considerable stimulating discussion of hepatic physiology in diabetes.