

These many awards attested to a remarkable medical career and affectionate esteem for a man in his seventies. They did not signal the onset of retirement, as might be expected, but, rather, marked the inauguration of the career of an author. In 1946 Dr. Harris published *Banting's Miracle*, a glowing tribute to a friend and one of the great benefactors of our time. In 1950 he wrote *Woman's Surgeon: The Life Story of J. Marion Sims*. This biography was dedicated to Dr. Charles Hooks Harris, father of Seale, a disciple of Marion Sims, and responsible for his son's lifelong admiration of the founder of modern gynecology. In 1952 Dr. Harris produced his final work, a political treatise: *Death of*

the National Democratic Party. Another work never completed because of a succession of mishaps and illnesses was: *Octogenarians, Nonagenarians and Centenarians Whom I Have Known*.

This talented and beloved physician died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Josephine Harris Keegan, on March 16, 1957. It is fitting to repeat a sentiment editorially expressed in the *Southern Medical Journal* of December 1921 when Seale Harris assumed the presidency of the Southern Medical Association: "He is of keen mind, thorough education, scholarly attainments, rare culture, great breadth of vision, and with it all a most human personality."

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:

The letter appearing in the July-August 1957 issue of DIABETES written by Dr. Joslin discussing the association of trauma with diabetes should be of tremendous interest to every practicing physician especially if he is called upon to render a professional opinion as to causal relationship.

Dr. Joslin gives his own personal experience citing uncontroversial data covering a period of over sixty years of clinical observations including case records of 49,000 patients studied in his clinic together with a terse statement of material on the subject covering two world wars, and reported experiences of his intimate colleagues in the Boston area as well as in Europe.

The early and continued animal studies of Long, Lukens, Young, Houssay, Ingle and many others on the relationship of other glands of internal secretion to diabetes mellitus with special reference to the anterior pituitary and the adrenal cortex; the use of certain glucogenic corticoids producing so-called "steroid diabetes" in selected experimental animals; and probably more recent observations and reports by Conn and others on the production of hyperglycemia in man by the use of corticotrophic substances, have induced some to feel that stressful situations resulting from trauma, and/or trauma alone can produce diabetes mellitus in man. Some have used the terminology "stress diabetes" as synonymous with so-called "steroid diabetes" and the clinical entity diabetes mellitus in man.

Despite the profound, exciting and enlightening experimental observations of the past fifteen to twenty years, this writer, for the present, agrees with Dr. Joslin

that trauma and the stressful situations frequently attendant thereto do not cause diabetes mellitus in man. Years of clinical observation confirm this position and there is insufficient experimental or clinical data to refute it.

As to the future, I shall be sincerely and keenly alert to all proven acceptable data confirming or disproving my present belief.

The question of trauma and stress as etiological factors while constituting a very small portion of the problem of diabetes as a whole, looms large and assumes considerable importance when the physician is called upon to render an opinion one way or the other, especially in a court of law. In the past several years I have been asked to review three such cases and give my opinion in three different cities. The legal implications are extensive and far-reaching and at times, appalling. An exhaustive review of the literature on the subject is intensely interesting and one is led to believe that some authors report the findings and statements of others without careful analysis and probably without integrating their own records and observations. As a result of my own recent experiences, I find myself again in agreement with Dr. Joslin and feel obligated to address this communication in the interest of the large segment of the future diabetic population of our country, "if it were considered likely that they would become diabetic if they underwent an injury."

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To the Editor:

Your recent article on Frederick William Pavy (DIABETES, November-December, 1956) provided a valuable appraisal of his contribution to medicine, particularly in