DIABETES MELLITUS.

A Clinical Study.

By T. H. OLIVER, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.
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It is the common experience of all clinical observers that under the term diabetes mellitus there is grouped a number of conditions which respond in varied degree to different therapeutic measures. While insulin is undoubtedly a therapeutic asset of very great importance it has had the disadvantage of leading many to consider that all cases of glycosuria with hyperglycæmia can be attributed directly to defect in the islets of Langerhaus. It is now becoming generally recognised that such is far from the case. Apart from academic considerations it is necessary from the practical point of view to remember that disturbances of carbohydrate metabolism are not always due to under-production of insulin. The author has attempted to classify the various types and although not everyone would agree with the result, his classification is well worth serious consideration and does give the

physician some guide to the interpretation of the different groups of signs and symptoms which are commonly met with in diabetic practice. The chapter on diabetic treatment is clearly written but in our opinion sufficient stress is not laid on the advisability of low protein diet although one of the objectives is clearly stated as the "prevention of the complicated process involved by the conversion of protein into carbohydrate." The author rightly offers a word of caution as to the use of the unrestricted carbohydrate diet even with plenty of insulin. The treatment of coma is dealt with: we should have preferred more emphasis to have been laid on the necessity for maintaining the water and salt content of the body even when there is no collapse: the use of saline or Hartmann's solution is invaluable in all cases of acidosis including diabetic coma. There is a chapter on diabetes and arteriosclerosis which is specially to be recommended for its practical advice.

This little book while not pretending to be a monograph should prove of great value to physicians, resulting as it does from the union of years of careful clinical observation with a consideration of biochemical and physiological data.

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