

INSULIN

A Wonderful Discovery

TERROR OF DIABETES DISPELLED

ONCE HOPELESS DISEASE CONQUERED

It is doubtful whether the majority of people realise the boon conferred upon humanity in the discovery of Insulin, the now world-famous remedy for diabetes. This disease was formerly an absolutely hopeless one. A person attacked by it in youth or middle age had not the slightest chance of recovery. It was one of the inexorable diseases known to medical science, and in young people it was usually so swift in its inroads that "once it was diagnosed no comfort could be given to the sufferer. A severe diet, which in itself made existence almost a living death, was practically the only method of treatment. Insulin, however, has conquered this fell disease.

Diabetes, the wasting disease of the pancreas, has long been so well known to the whole community that its effects do not need to be told. Until comparatively recently it was one of the mystery diseases. Its cause was unknown and its treatment baffled the medical profession of the world. Scientists, however, have been endeavoring to find a cure for many years, and it is doubtful whether the world at large will ever know how much thought and energy has been put into this subject. Not so very long ago Dr. F. G. Banting, of Canada, announced the discovery of a substance, made from the pancreas of an animal, which he asserted would arrest the disease of diabetes. The public watched the progress of experiments and it became clear that Dr. Banting's discovery marked a new epoch in medicine. Even now, however, it is questionable whether the community at large realises to the full the effect of Dr. Banting's discovery.

Effective in All Cases

A paragraph which appeared in "The South Australian" recently stating that another Canadian research worker, Dr. J. M. Rabinowitch, had prepared a substitute for Insulin, which could be taken by the mouth, led a representative of this paper to question Professor T. Brallford Robertson, of the University of Adelaide, regarding the progress that has been made with the use of Insulin in the treatment of diabetes. Professor Robertson said the treatment had succeeded beyond all question.

"You cannot put back a destroyed pancreas," he remarked, "any more than you can put back a bone that has gone, but Insulin arrests the disease and is the only thing in the treatment of diabetes that offers the diabetic a normal expectation of life. It appears to be of value in every case no matter how severe, though naturally when the disease is less acute it is easier to treat. Experiments are still going on, but not with the object of proving the value of Insulin. The medical profession knows now that Insulin will be effective if used in the proper way. It is necessary for the patients to diet, but there is no reason why

with the constant use of Insulin a person stricken with diabetes may not continue to live a normal life with reasonable care in the matter of the food taken.

Torturing Diet a Thing of the Past

Previously it was an absolutely hopeless disease in a young or middle aged person. The expectation of life after developing acute symptoms was probably not more than four years. The hopelessness has now gone. There are, of course, people who cannot diet, and with them naturally Insulin is not as effective as with those who will restrict the consumption of sugar. Formerly the diet made the treatment almost worse than the disease. It was torture. The medical profession has been able to forego treatment which in itself inflicted terrible suffering upon patients. "Of course, one cannot eat waffles," advised Professor Robertson with a smile, "and expect the best results from the use of Insulin, but there are many cases even in Adelaide where people who have diabetes can lead just as normal and strenuous a life as anybody else and be as healthy as they were before they had diabetes."

Cost Within Reach of All

Professor Robertson in reply to further questions said the experiments now going on were in the direction of finding a way of administering Insulin effectively through the mouth, but so far success had not been obtained in this direction. Further, scientists were endeavoring to discover a way of making Insulin from vegetable substances, and in that respect a certain amount of success had been reported. The only means of administering Insulin was by hypodermic injection. Until about 18 months ago the Animal Products Research Foundation had supplied South Australia with Insulin, but latterly it had resigned the manufacture to the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories.

Insulin is now produced at a price which brings it within the reach of everybody. Any diabetic person in constant employment can afford to buy enough for his requirements.

It is wonderful to think that the toll in human lives extorted by this dread disease is so small.

PHYSICAL UNIVERSE

Lectures at University

In connection with the Adelaide University extension lectures, Prof. Kerr Grant will lecture in the Physics and Lecture room on Tuesday evenings, June 20, July 6, and 13 on the subject, "The New Physics and the New Astronomy." The object of the lectures is to present in outline an account of recent and remarkable developments in the knowledge and speculations concerning the physical universe.

The lectures will be based on the one hand on new and important achievements of astronomical observation, and on the other on the application to astronomical data of the revolutionary conceptions of the last two decades concerning the nature and relations of space and time, of matter, electricity and light, which may be termed the new physics.

The subject matter of the lectures will be as follows:—First lecture—The contents and the structure of the universe on the scale of the universe in space and time. Second—The characteristics and classification of the stars; giant and dwarf stars; Saha's theory of stellar spectra and surface temperatures; Edington's theory of stellar constitution. Third—The history of the universe, the origin of solar and stellar radiation; the cosmogony of Jeans.

News. 16-6-26

ADELAIDE PERSONALITIES

Lights of Library Board

3—MANY LEARNED MEN

Men pre-eminent in the professions took a keen interest in the meeting of the Library Board during the association of Sir William Sowden with that body. glowing tributes is paid to Sir William among others.

"Although these outline reminiscences deal only with the interest in an exciting way will be alluded with reference to Sir William Bragg," said Sir William Sowden (former president). "He married a daughter of Sir Charles Toker, and since his start in an Adelaide University professorship has risen to be one of the most brilliant scientists in the northern hemisphere. He has had few equals in Australia in research work. Personally he is a charming man."

"Dr. H. T. Murray, who during many years was chief editor and chairman of the Australian Mutual Provident Society in this State, was a fine specimen of the old school—staid, gentlemanly—conscientious, courteous, and able, and yet always dignified. If he had lived until this year he would have been a centenarian, but he died 27 years ago, and his devoted wife survived him but only a few weeks. Incidentally he is said to have been the only prominent man in the Public Service who grew a beard but shaved his top lip."

Good-Natured Banter

"Dr. Paton, who was so long pastor of Chalmers Church on North terrace, was an exceedingly learned pundit, but his intellectuality was qualified by good-natured banter, which he enjoyed thoroughly, although (or because) he was Scotsman. Sir Edward Sefton was for 17 years on the paid staff of the board and after the appointment of the present member of the board. His lamented death, seven years ago, at the age of 70, is of such recent date that there is no doubt of the truth of the immortality which has been conferred for him by the board in naming in his honor the most valuable part of the museum collection. His contributions to scientific literature would fill many volumes; and if he had persevered in the Parliamentary career which he began but soon discontinued, he would have made a reputation as a statesman."

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

There is no good in arguing with the inevitable. The only argument available with an east wind is to put on your overcoat.—Lowell.

"Professor Ralph Tate, who began his life in a printing office, was at the time of his death in 1901, at the age of 61, acclaimed a leading authority throughout Australia. He had been reported, which he was, as the first person in Adelaide University hall a century ago. Mr. C. T. Hargrave, for many years head of the Royal Department of the Government, was a fine cultured Irishman,

whose special hobby was the study of the Gaelic tongue. Mr. W. J. Vandenberg, Mr. Claude Lindsay both died prematurely according to mortal calculation. Mr. Vandenberg was a lawyer who had for years to contend against affliction to which in the end he succumbed, but in the meantime he had rendered distinguished service to the Adelaide Circulating Library, which he represented on the board, and also during a period of delicate and difficult periods to the board itself.

ADV. 14-6-26

OXFORD RHODES LECTURESHIP.

CONDITIONS ANNOUNCED.

LONDON, June 16. At the annual Rhodes Scholars' dinner at Oxford to-night, Sir Otto Beit announced the foundation of the Oxford Rhodes Memorial Lectureship in connection with the new Rhodes House. It will be awarded to a man or woman pre-eminently distinguished in public life, business, science, scholarship, or letters, on condition that the recipient resides at Oxford for one term, and delivers at least two lectures. The main purpose is to bring to Oxford distinguished persons from other countries, especially the new world, so that their special learning or experience may be available to the university. It is expected that the value of the lectureship will be about £200.—Reuter.

REG. 14-6-26

RHODES LECTURESHIP.

To Attract Special Learning.

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REG. 17-6-26

In the Executive Council on Wednesday the following appointments were made in connection with the Adelaide Hospital—Honorary gynaecologist, Dr. W. A. Verco; honorary assistant gynaecologist, Dr. R. E. Magarey; honorary bio-chemist, Professor T. Brallford Robertson; honorary oral surgeon, Dr. H. M. J. Sangster; honorary assistant oral surgeon, Dr. J. J. O'Grady and J. B. Lewis; honorary dental surgeons, Dr. A. S. Rendell, H. C. D. Taunton, and H. Gill Williams.

REG. 17-6-26

The first of a series of concerts by the Elder Conservatorium String Quartet will be held in the Public Library Lecture Room on Tuesday evening, June 22. Miss Maude Puddy is assisting with the programme.