

PHYSIOLOGY

# Diabetic Patients Can Eat Sugar if Fats Are Eliminated

Success of Unorthodox Treatment of Cases Reported By Canadian Physician at Meeting of Chemical Society

**D**IABETIC patients can safely be given sugar and starchy foods to eat, if fats are carefully eliminated from their diet.

This method of handling diabetes cases, unorthodox according to prevailing medical views, has been successfully used by Dr. I. M. Rabinowitch, of Montreal General Hospital, who spoke before the meeting of the American Chemical Society at Buffalo, N. Y. His paper was part of a symposium on "Some Clinical Aspects of Endocrine Therapy."

There is no cure for diabetes, in the real sense of the word, Dr. Rabinowitch emphasized. All that modern methods of treatment do is arrest the disease and prolong the patient's life, sometimes for many years. Even since the discovery of insulin, it has been found that a properly adjusted diet alone is sufficient in the majority of cases.

In the cases treated by Dr. Rabinowitch, the patients were allowed sugars and starches enough to satisfy energy requirements, but only enough, and insulin injections were given only when specially needed, and then often in reduced dosages.

Physiological evidence has been advanced by Dr. E. V. McCollum, one of the pioneers of insulin research, that the breakdown products of fats are more harmful to the body tissues than are those of sugar, and that they are re-

sponsible for some of the symptoms of diabetes. It would seem logical, therefore, to change the standard diet for diabetics by cutting out fats and allowing them carbohydrates. Subscribing to this view, Dr. Rabinowitch made his clinical tests, with the success which he described.

At the general meeting of the Society, its president, Prof. Moses Gomberg of the University of Michigan, attacked one of the knottiest problems that trouble chemists, both theoretical and applied. His address was on "Valence Variation and Atomic Structure."

## Puzzling About Atom

For years chemists have been puzzling why one atom of a given element will sometimes combine with one of another, but at other times will join hands with two, three or more. This, Prof. Gomberg said, remained a mystery until the coming of modern physical chemistry, with its compound atom made up of a number of electrons and protons.

It is in the electrons of the outer "shell" of the atom that the combining power resides, and according to the number and disposition of the "valence electrons" there is usually only one that has a hand free to join a neighboring atomic dance—the atom will be mono-, bi- or polyvalent.

In the course of the meetings it became evident that a small boy holding

a burning-glass in the sun until he gets a smoking hole through a piece of paper—or the sleeve of his best Sunday shirt—is using, on an elementary scale, one of the newest tools of chemical research. For chemists have been catching sun-power with concentrating concave mirrors and raising samples of materials to be analyzed to intense heat, almost like that of the sun's surface itself, by this adaptation of the toys they themselves used when they were boys. Dr. Robert B. Sosman, industrial chemist of Kearney, N. J., told of this, among other new and powerful tools used by the chemist to wrest vivid secrets from dumb inanimate matter and thus to make it more responsive to his will and more useful to the world.

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ANTHROPOLOGY

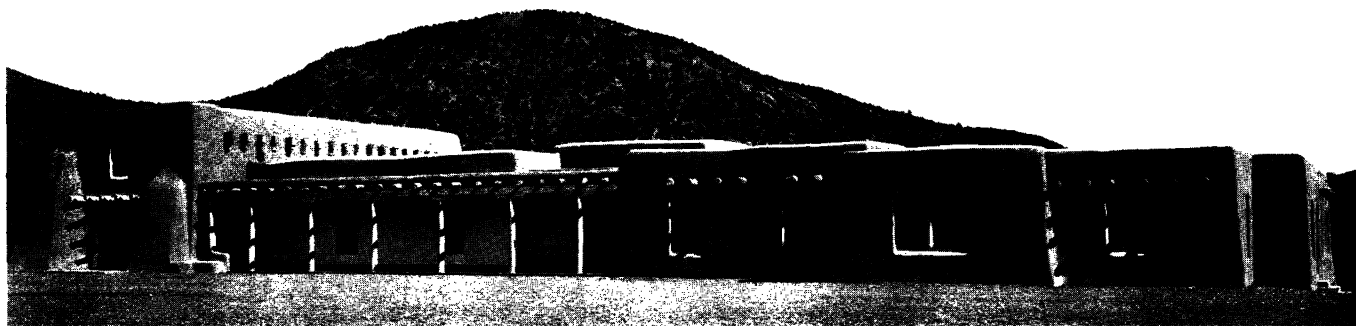
## Scientists Gather at Anthropology Laboratory

**P**ROMINENT scientists from all parts of the United States assembled at Santa Fe last week for a conference of archaeologists and ethnologists, the first to be held at the new Laboratory of Anthropology which has just been formally opened.

The laboratory, located in the heart of the region richest in archaeological discoveries and possibilities, is expected to aid greatly in increasing knowledge of the American Indian both as an assembling place for scientists and as a well equipped work shop to which new material can be quickly taken.

Students doing research work on the ancient and modern tribes will have here one of the finest collections of Indian pottery, blankets, silverwork and other artifacts, both old and new, ever assembled in the United States.

Among the scientists attending the



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