

PSYCHIATRY

New Hope Now for Those With Most Common Mental Disease

Insulin, Reducing Blood Sugar to Minimum, Reported To Provide Cure For 68 Per Cent of Cases Treated

HOPE that insulin, life-saving remedy in diabetes, will restore to sanity thousands of patients now languishing hopelessly in mental disease hospitals, appears in a report of European observations made by Dr. Bernard Glueck, medical director of Stony Lodge, Ossining, N. Y.

Insulin is being used with apparent success in European hospitals to treat schizophrenia, Dr. Glueck reports (*Journal, American Medical Association*, Sept. 26).

This mental disease fills one-fifth of all hospital beds, more than any other single disease, and its cost has been estimated at one million dollars daily.

Great Achievement

By giving daily doses of insulin, the sugar content of the patient's blood is reduced to its lowest possible limit short of endangering life. Of 118 patients treated in Switzerland by this method, 68.2 per cent, over two-thirds, made full recoveries. If these patients remain permanently sane, this method of treating mental disease will constitute, in Dr. Glueck's words, "one of the greatest achievements of medicine."

No other form of psychiatric therapy requires as much care, skill and caution in its application as this treatment does, it is said. The greatest difficulty lies in the total unpredictability of the patients'

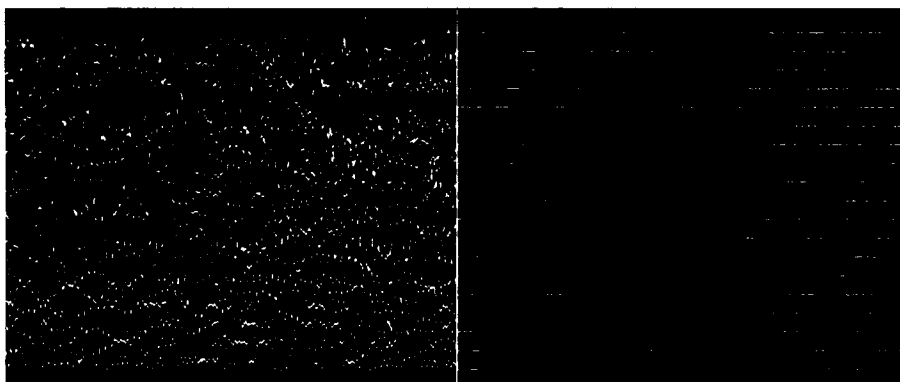
reactions from day to day or even from hour to hour. The introduction of sugar into the blood, however, has almost instantaneous restorative effects if life is threatened by too much insulin, Dr. Glueck states.

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SEISMOLOGY

Earthquake's Record Lost In Hurricane Disturbance

THE great hurricane that swept up the Atlantic coast during the middle week of September helped an earthquake to get lost. Great storms like this cause the indicator-beams on seismographs to dance in small rhythmic tremors known as microseisms. These "wiggles," dancing during the storm period, completely confused and masked out the record of a real earthquake that came in from some distant part of the earth, on Friday, Sept. 18, at the Franklin Institute, as shown in the illustration. The straight lines at the right show the record usually traced by the instrument when nothing is happening. Records at Fordham, St. Louis, and Georgetown Universities were also badly disturbed by microseisms. How a storm acts in causing these microseisms is not yet known. At one time, the breaking of heavy surf was considered the cause. This idea has been



RECORD HIDDEN

The seismograph record at the left contains the traces made by an earthquake, but they are masked by gyrations caused by a hurricane. At the right are the instrument's tracings when not disturbed.

given up, without a better theory being substituted.

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ETHNOLOGY

Natives of West Indies Used Hurricane Amulets

ARAWAK Indians of the West Indies, from whom white men first learned the name that has since become "hurricane," had a special god for this fearsome kind of storm, and carried images of him as protective amulets, Herbert L. Krieger of the Smithsonian Institution informed Science Service.

The little images carried by the Indians were known as "zemi." There was a particular zemi for each type of thing to be feared—battle, murder, and sudden death. It is significant, Mr. Krieger stated, that the hurricane rated a special zemi of its own.

Mr. Krieger has a whole trayful of these Arawak zemi, ranging from the size of a thimble to a few inches in length and skillfully carved in wood, shell, bone, and stone. They are tiny effigies of human beings and various animals, such as frogs, bats, and jaguars. But it is no longer known which of these zemi was assigned to the hurricane insurance business.

The hurricane might have borne the even more sinister title of "furycane," but for a more or less chance shifting of spellings, back in the sixteenth century.

The first white men to encounter West Indian storms of this type were Columbus and his companions, who had one of their ships destroyed and the others endangered by such a tempest. They, and other discoverers who followed in their wake, learned the native name, which was reported as "huracan" by some writers, and as "furan" by others.

Both forms came into European use in a great variety of spellings, including such odd variants as "hero-cane" and "harry-cain." But by the beginning of the seventeenth century, only the spellings beginning with "H" survived; English had lost its chance to know the most destructive of all storms by a descriptively suggestive title.

Shakespeare evidently was much impressed by voyagers' tales of terrible storms in the New World's waters, for one of his plays, "The Tempest," is conditioned upon storm and shipwreck, and he uses the word "hurricane" in "King Lear" and "Cymbeline."

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