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ORIGINAL ARTICLES

THE INTERNAL SECRETION OF THE PANCREAS*

BY F. G. BANTING, M.B., AND C. H. BEST, B.A.

THE hypothesis underlying this series of experiments was first formulated by one of us in November, 1920,[†] while reading an article dealing with the relation of the isles of Langerhans to diabetes.¹ From the passage in this article, which gives a résumé of degenerative changes in the acini of the pancreas following ligation of the ducts, the idea presented itself that since the acinous, but not the islet tissue, degenerates after this operation, advantage might be taken of this fact to prepare an active extract of islet tissue. The subsidiary hypothesis was that trypsinogen or its derivatives was antagonistic to the internal secretion of the gland. The failures of other investigators in this much-worked field were thus accounted for.

The feasibility of the hypothesis having been recognized by Professor J. J. R. Macleod, work was begun, under his direction, in May, 1921, in the Physiological Laboratory of the University of Toronto.

In this paper no attempt is made to give a complete review of the literature. A short résumé, however, of some of the outstanding articles which tend to attribute to the isles of Langerhans the control of carbohydrate metabolism, is submitted.

In 1889 Mering and Minkowski² found that total pancreatectomy in dogs resulted in severe and fatal diabetes. Following this, many different observers experimented with animals of various species and found in all types examined, a glycosuria and fatal cachexia after this operation. The fact was thus established that the pancreas was responsible for this form of diabetes. In 1884, Arnozan and Vaillard³ had ligated the pancreatic ducts in rabbits and found that within twenty-four hours the ducts become dilated; the epithelial cells begin to desquamate; and that there are protoplasmic changes in the acinous cells. On the seventh day there is a beginning of

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