TOLL OF DIABETES IS RISING RAPIDLY

Death Rate for First Quarter of 1929 Was 23.8 a 100,000
Metropolitan Life Index.

INCREASE LAID TO RICH DIET.

Only the Use of Insulin Has Kept
Mortality From Being Much
Higher, Experts Assert.

Overindulgence in food and drink has raised the death rate from dia-
abetes to a new high level. In the first quarter of this year and is
likely to drive it by the end of 1929 to the highest figure ever recorded, the
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company reports in its current Statistical Bul-
letin, made available yesterday.

The only use of insulin has pre-
vented the death rate from being
"much higher," according to the medical opinion of the company, but
its use is not preventing a dangerously high increase in the death rate.
This control of the increase of diabetes, which is considered to be largely
revert to the richness of modern diet.

The insurance company, basing its
report on the figures of its 19,000,-
000 industrial policy holders, an-
nounced that the death rate from dis-
betes for the first three months of
the year had reached 23.8 for each
100,000. Much of the increase, it
was said, due to the prevalence of
obesity, and particularly to the weight
that hastened the deaths of many dia-
betics, but even in March and April,
with the influenza menace temporarily
waning, the diabetes mortality ex-
ceeded the high figures recorded for
these months in 1928.

"It is our best judgment," the
company declared, "that diabetes is
on the increase, in spite of the use
of insulin, because of the excess of
rich foods and privileges of the good
food and big appetite that are the
cesses practiced by the American
people."

The report emphasizes that the
Metropolitan does not wish to reflect
upon insulin treatment and declared that
it was misunderstood in an earlier statement made by the

"That statement, in effect, was that despite the greatly
increased use of insulin, the diabetes death
rate has not increased," it explains. "In some quarters, the
statement was drawn and published that the Metro-
politan considered insulin treatment useless. Despite the fact that the
insulin death rate, as far as the Metropolitan Company has been able to
find, showed a further rise in 1928, and bids fair for 1929, compared to the
high figures ever recorded, it is our definite firm belief that the use of
insulin for the increasing use of insulin the death rate would be much higher.

The statement that insulin
is a great benefit in pro-
genating the life of diabetics is
true, but the use of insulin is not
enough. Older patients, formerly kept on starvation diet, and even worse,
rationally restricted lives, are able to resume the former activities. Come is pre-
ventable and curable by insulin; and the treatment under exacting
checks diabetes through infectious diseases and surgical operations.

But the course of diabetes death rate among insured males
leaves no room for doubt. Between
45 and 65 years there has been an
important change in the death rate. In
age 65 there has been a distinct and
significant rise. For females, the
only ages showing a decline have been those of childhood and early
life. For ages 15 and above, there has been a slight rising tendency;
and the death rate due to diabetes after 55 has risen sharply.

This is one of the few diseases for which, among older people, may be
prevented by popular education, the report declared.

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