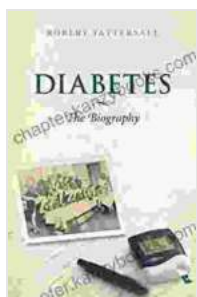


Diabetes: The Biography - A Captivating Journey Through a Disease's Impact on Humanity

Chapter 1: Ancient Roots and Early Encounters



Diabetes: The Biography (Biographies of Disease)

by Robert Tattersall

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1055 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 233 pages

Lending : Enabled



The earliest known records of diabetes date back to ancient Egypt, where hieroglyphs described a condition called "sweet urine." Around the same time, Chinese physicians identified a similar illness characterized by excessive thirst and frequent urination.

In ancient Greece, the physician Hippocrates coined the term "diabetes" from the Greek word "diabainein," meaning "to siphon through." He astutely observed the disease's distinctive symptoms and classified it as a chronic, incurable condition.

Chapter 2: The Renaissance and the Dawn of Scientific Inquiry



During the Renaissance, European physicians began to investigate diabetes more systematically. In the 16th century, the Swiss physician Paracelsus linked the disease to a "sweet substance" in the urine. This discovery laid the foundation for future research on glucose metabolism.

In the 17th century, the English physician Thomas Willis coined the term "mellitus" to describe the sweet taste of diabetic urine. He also made the crucial observation that the disease affected the pancreas, a vital organ in blood sugar regulation.

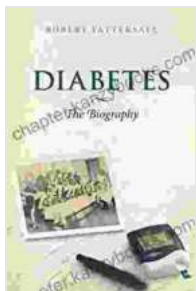
Chapter 3: Unveiling the Role of the Pancreas and Insulin



A major breakthrough came in 1889 when Oskar Minkowski and Joseph von Mering discovered that removing the pancreas in dogs led to diabetes. This finding suggested that the pancreas played a crucial role in controlling blood sugar levels.

In the early 20th century, scientists began to focus on identifying the substance produced by the pancreas that regulated blood sugar. In 1921, Frederick Banting and Charles Best made the pivotal discovery of insulin, a hormone that allows the body to absorb glucose from the blood.

Chapter 4: From Insulin to Genetic Insights



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