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THE MEDICO-LEGAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE  
PRESENCE OF SUGAR AND GLYCOGEN IN  
THE LIVER POST MORTEM.<sup>1</sup>

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In 1897 Lacassagne and Martin, of Lyons,<sup>2</sup> reported the results of two hundred cases which were tested as to the presence of sugar and glycogen in the liver at the autopsy. Their observations were made with a view of investigating the statement of the late Claude Bernard,<sup>3</sup> that the livers of persons dying sudden or violent deaths contained sugar or glycogen, and usually both, while these substances were said to be absent from the livers of persons dying of disease.

Until the subject has recently been re-studied and a practical method of performing the test was discovered by Lacassagne there were practically no observations, except some made in his laboratory by his pupils Colrat and Fochier in 1888, and Colomel in 1893. *omb*  
The technique recommended is to make an emulsion of the liver-substance (usually 100 grammes), by rubbing it up with water, boiling this in a porcelain capsule, filtering with animal charcoal, and testing the filtrate by Fehling's solution. If glycogen was present the fluid was opalescent. We find that smaller amounts of liver-substance suffice, and that the use of charcoal is hardly necessary.

<sup>1</sup> Read at a meeting of the Massachusetts Medico-Legal Society, October 5, 1898.

<sup>2</sup> Archives d'Anthropol. Criminelle, 1897, p. 446.

<sup>3</sup> Theses de Faculté des Sciences, 1853.