high fibrinogen content may exist in the presence of definite [330] liver disease. However, when the content is low it is of grave prognostic import.

The test is made as follows: 25 or 50 cc. of clear plasma obtained by centrifugalizing the blood, which has been received into oxalate solution, is heated in a water bath at 59° C. for 20 to 30 minutes. Fibrinogen is thrown out as a [331] white flocculent precipitate, is collected on a Gooch crucible, washed with H₂O, alcohol and ether, dried and weighed.

LIPASE.

The amount of lipase in the blood has been shown to be markedly increased in certain diseases of the liver (Whipple, Mason & Peightal).44 They utilized Loevenhart's 45 method of determining lipase, which is done according to the following technic: Four tubes are prepared, each containing 1 cc. of plasma, or serum, diluted with 4 cc. of distilled H₂O and to this is added 0.3 cc. toluol to prevent bacterial infection. To two of the tubes is added 0.26 cc. of ethyl butyrate, the other two serving as controls. After shaking, the tubes are stoppered and placed in an incubator at 38° C. for 18 to 24 hours, then cooled in water and to each is added three drops of azolitmin as an indicator. They are then titrated in pairs to neutrality, the controls with 1/10 N acid, the other with 1/10 N alkali. The controls with this indicator show the blood alkalinity to be 0.1 cc. of N/10 acid, while the butyrate tubes show an acidity of 0.1 to 1.2 cc. of N/10 alkali. The lipolytic activity of normal blood or serum expressed in terms of N/10 HCl is, therefore, 0.2 to 0.3 cc.

Experimental injury to the liver resulting from chloroform, phosphorus, hydrazine, etc., always produces an increase in plasma lipase to from 2 to 8 times the normal. After chloroform anæsthesia of 1 to 2 hours' duration, in dogs the plasma lipase increases to 1 to 2 cc. N/10 acid. This increase occurs during the first few hours after anæsthesia, lasts two to three days, and then slowly decreases as repair is established, finally reaching normal again on complete recovery. If the animal be fatally poisoned, the lipase remains high until death on the fourth or fifth day.

(11)