

obtained may not always be perfectly uniform. This tendency to deviation would, however, be more likely to cause human semen to be confounded with that of animals, than the reverse. Personally, my experience does not entitle me to express an opinion as to the extent to which detached heads and tails of spermatozoa should be allowed to constitute evidence of semen, but I think it will be a long time before anything less than the entire spermatozoon will be accepted as legal tender by either judges or juries.

I think it can be said with confidence that the iodine reaction of semen, as described by Florence, is a decided step in advance, and that in it we have a new and very promising preliminary and confirmatory test for normal semen, and one which gives relatively good results in the case of stains which from a prolonged drying, react with difficulty to the microscopic test.

The sources of fallacy which attend the iodine test are, however, as yet practically unknown.

To determine what inference may be drawn from the absence of this reaction in a suspected stain, we need much fuller information and experiments on the effects of external conditions, etc., upon substances known to be stained by semen; we also need information as to the extent to which pathological conditions may exert a modifying influence, how the age limit affects the reaction, and on many other points.

Before we can assign accurately the significance of a positive result, we require much further testing and corroboration regarding the behavior of the reagent with substances other than semen, and also with the semen of animals.

After making all due allowance for this we must rejoice at the success of M. Florence in discovering a crystalline reaction for semen. As a rule, a good crystalline is better than a color reaction and we may expect that further researches in this direction will lead to the discovery of new and valuable micro-chemical tests.