

conditions affecting alimentation, but it was stated that his habits were intemperate and that he had recently been drinking heavily. The autopsy did not show that food had recently been ingested.

In two cases of drowning, where the bodies were in an advanced state of decomposition, the test gave negative results ; in two others the test was positive.

CONCLUSIONS.

We can confirm the results of previous investigators as regards the result of the test in healthy persons living under normal conditions of nutrition. From our experience so far we are inclined to regard the test as one of very considerable value where the conditions relative to alimentation previous to death can be established through the history or by the results of the post-mortem. It should be borne in mind that the information as regards the cause of death is indirect and that the direct information relates only to the glyco-genic function of the liver. We wish to emphasize the important influence of sepsis and of alcoholism with abstinence from food ; when these are excluded we find the results very constant.