

ACETONÆMIA IN THE MOTHER AS A CERTAIN TEST OF THE DEATH OF THE FŒTUS.

SOMETIMES it is very difficult to diagnosticate the death of the fœtus. The greater number of the signs relied upon by physicians, (absence of active movements of the fœtus, sinking of the abdomen, sinking and softening of the womb, escape of milk from the breasts, disappearance of the sympathetic phenomena of pregnancy, etc.), are uncertain, and even the absence of the sounds of the fœtal heart, observed on different occasions, may sometimes leave the practitioner in doubt.

Dr. Knapp contends, that the appearance of acetone in the maternal urine is a certain sign of the death of the fœtus. In ten cases, taken at random, in which all the symptoms pointed to the death of the fœtus, tests of the mother's urine, made on several occasions before the expulsion of a more or less macerated fœtus, always indicated the presence of a marked quantity of acetone.

Chautard's solution of fuchsine, (5 centigrammes of fuchsine to .100 grammes of water and decolorized by sulphurous acid) is recommended for the test.

To make the test, pour into a test-tube containing 15 or 20 cc. of the urine, a few drops of the reagent. If acetone is present, the urine instantly turns of a violet color, the depth of the shade varying with the quantity of acetone present in the urine.

This simple test for acetone may prove useful to the practitioner in enabling him to diagnosticate the death of the fœtus, when even the assemblage of the ordinary symptoms would still leave some doubts in his mind.

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INDIVIDUAL COMMUNION CUPS.

THOUGH, perhaps, it may be somewhat unusual for a medical journal to interfere with or even dare to dictate to the clergy, yet we must express an opinion on the outcome of the debate which took place recently at the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, which convened in this city, on the adoption by that body of the use of individual cups at the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Leaving out of the question entirely the religious aspect of this matter, we are strongly of the opinion that