

Determination of the Functional Condition of the Pancreas.

Fedeli and Romaneli (*Rif. Med.*, September 20th, 1909) describe the following method for estimating the functional capacity of the pancreas. To 1 c.cm. of the saliva they add 5 c.cm. of gastric juice, or an equal quantity of 2.5 per cent. HCl, shake the mixture, and leave it at rest for half an hour, then add 4 c.cm. of a 1 per cent. solution of carbonate of soda, so as to render the mixture slightly alkaline. They next add 20 c.cm. of a 10 per cent. starch paste, and place the whole in thermostat at 37° C. for two hours, repeatedly shaking. They then estimate the amount of sugar formed. The next stage consists in adding to the above mixture 10 c.cm. of an aqueous solution (1 in 4) of faeces, and leaving the whole in the stove for twelve hours and then estimating the sugar formed. The difference between the two estimations of sugar represents the degree of pancreatic functionality. To show that this was not due to other constituents of the faeces, the authors tested with bile and succus entericus, and found that they only gave negative results. A series of thirty control estimations by Müller's method showed that the results of the two methods were practically the same in each case.—*British Medical Journal*.

Life.

Man comes into this world without his consent, and leaves it against his will. During his stay on earth his time is spent on one continuous round of contraries and misunderstandings. In his infancy he is an angel; in his boyhood he is a devil; in his manhood he is everything from a lizard up; if he raises a family he is a chump.

If he raises a cheque, he is a thief, and then the law raises the deuce with him; if he is a poor man, he is a poor manager, and has no sense; if he is rich, he is dishonest, but considered smart; if he is in politics, he is a grafter and a crook; if he is out of politics you cannot place him, as he is an undesirable citizen.

If he goes to church he is a hypocrite; if he stays away from church he is a sinner; if he donates to foreign missions he does it for show; if he doesn't he is stingy and a tight-wad. When he first comes into the world everybody wants to kiss him; but before he goes out they all want to kick him. If he dies young there was a great future before him; if he lives to a ripe old age he is in the way, only living to save funeral expenses. Life is a funny proposition.—*Exchange*.