

cases studied, particularly in cirrhosis. Owing to the non-exclusion of acidosis considerable difficulty is experienced in interpreting these results. It would have been advisable to have attempted to exclude acidosis by the feeding of alkalies.

PRACTICABILITY OF TESTS

The phenoltetrachlorophthalein test involves an intravenous injection and careful collection of stools for forty-eight hours. Three undesirable features are connected with its application: 1. The quality of red color obtained in certain instances (from 10 to 20 per cent. of the cases) is such that accurate quantitative estimation is difficult. Only in rare instances is this a serious difficulty leading to error of more than 5 per cent. 2. Thrombosis frequently follows at the point of injection, as evidenced by slight local pain or tenderness together with resistance offered to the palpating finger along the course of the vein. This occurred in eight instances in this series of cases, but in no case has it occasioned serious discomfort or resulted in actual harm to the patient. 3. With salt solution made with freshly distilled water chills following the injection are infrequent. When no dilution is employed chills are less frequent and not accompanied with increase in temperature.

Fibrinogen determinations are inapplicable in the presence of severe anemia. They necessitate the withdrawal of from 40 to 50 c.c. of blood. A high speed centrifuge and considerable chemical equipment are requisites. The test is time-consuming. *Lipase determinations* require neither complicated apparatus nor much time. *The determination of the total non-protein nitrogen, urea nitrogen and amino-acid nitrogen* of the blood cannot be carried out when severe anemia exists. Technically the determinations are easy but are time-consuming. *The nitrogen partition* in the urine requires somewhat less time. *Galactose* can be administered without discomfort to the patient, but technical difficulties attend the use of *levulose*, at least 25 per cent. of the patients refusing to take the full amount or developing nausea or vomiting following its ingestion. *The fibrinolytic ferment* is readily demonstrated. *Urobilinogen determinations* in the urine are valueless unless made daily for a period of two weeks and unless associated with urobilin determinations in the feces.