

TABLE II., FEMALES.

1. Foetal pulsation, 150 per minute.	9. Foetal pulsation, 140 per minute.
2. " " 142 "	10. " " 152 "
3. " " 140 "	11. " " 140 "
4. " " 150 "	12. " " 143 "
5. " " 144 "	13. " " 144 "
6. " " 140 "	14. " " 141 "
7. " " 140 "	15. " " 160 "
8. " " 144 "	

From these two tables it seems that when the pulsation varies from 120 to 140, the probability is that the foetus will be a male, and when the pulsation varies from 140 to 160, the foetus will likely be found to be a female. But there are some exceptions to these facts. In three cases in which the pulsation was from 150 to 160, the foetus proved to be a male; and in fifteen cases in which the pulsation varied from 116 to 138, the foetuses were found to be females. It therefore appears that there is less frequent variation in the pulsation in the male foetus than in the female; or rather that there are fewer cases in which the heart's action exceeds 140 in the male, than that it falls below that number in the female.

These tables are exceedingly interesting, however, as far as they go; and the subject is well worthy further attention.—*Edin. Med. Journ.*, June, 1870.

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62. *Toxic Action of Pyrogallic Acid.*—In a communication made to the Academy of Sciences on the 1st of March, 1869, M. J. Personne proposed that poisoning by phosphorus should be treated by the administration of oil of turpentine, on the grounds that phosphorus produces its poisonous effects by removing oxygen from the blood, and that this action is prevented by turpentine. It occurred to him that this view of the theory of phosphorus-poisoning would be greatly strengthened were similar physiological effects found to be produced by other substances, which agree with phosphorus in its deoxidizing property, but present no other remarkable resemblance to it. With the object of ascertaining this, M. Personne made some experiments with pyrogallic acid, the results of which he now briefly narrates (*Comptes Rendus*, 4 Octobre, 1869, p. 749). Two dogs received by injection into the stomach 30 and 60 grains respectively of pyrogallic acid, in a large quantity of water. Poisonous symptoms quickly supervened in both, and these symptoms closely resembled those that are caused by phosphorus. After death, the liver was found greatly enlarged, the heart soft and friable and filled with clots of black blood, and the bladder contained a brown fluid resembling that which is obtained when an alkaline solution of pyrogallic acid is shaken up with air. A microscopic examination of the heart and liver revealed an immense quantity of fat. The muscular fibres of the heart were concealed by fat globules; and the liver of the dog that had received 30 grains weighed nearly 8000 grains, or about $\frac{1}{16}$ th of the whole weight of the animal. It is thus shown that two substances which agree in little else than their power of abstracting oxygen from the air cause nearly identical symptoms and morbid changes in the living economy, notwithstanding their great dissimilarity in general properties and in origin. M. Personne believes that the above results distinctly prove that both phosphorus and pyrogallic acid produce death by asphyxia, which may be either rapid or slow, according as the quantity absorbed is such as to deprive the blood of its oxygen with greater or less rapidity.—*Journal of Anal. and Phys.*, May, 1870.

63. *Poisoning by Carbolic Acid.*—The subject of tar-poisoning, which is now attracting a good deal of attention in connection with the extensive employ-