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OK... I was not expecting this

Now there be a pregnant woman, her years, twenty-nine, with nine months of difficulty. Know we not yet that ^{which} she shall bear?

Answer saith: she shall bear a male.

Method saith: put down forty-nine. Add the months of difficulty, and subtract her years, of that which remaineth, for Heaven remove one, for Earth remove two, for Man remove three, for the Four Seasons remove four, for the Five Elements remove five, for the Six ~~Pitches~~ Pitches remove six, for the Seven Stars remove seven, for the Eight Winds remove eight, and for the Nine Provinces remove nine. Of its remainder: odd be male, and even be female.

行年: her years; i.e. ^{the} year in which she walketh

Presumably, this must be reckoned by Chinese age counting? (at the time of conception)

$$49 + 9 - 29 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 = 1$$

$$\equiv 1 \pmod{2}$$

答難今
曰:九有
生月。孕
男未婦,
知行
所年
生?二
十九,

盡八除二,行術
者,風五,人年。曰:
奇除六,除所置
則八,律三,餘四
為九除四以十
男,州六,時天九,
耦除七,除除加
則九,星四,一,難
為其除五地月,
女。不七,行除減

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難月: lit. months of difficulty

Initially I thought this would be the month of labour, but the same algorithm is given in 《古今圖書集成》

《醫家彙編·醫法典》，see

<http://ctext.org/library.pl?if=en&file=91421&page=106>

Here it has 孕月, "months of pregnancy".

除: remove, NOT divide.

From 《古今》，we see that we stop if the subtraction shall make the result negative.

(The example there is effectively the same; there it is 28 yr (8 months), which gives the same result as 29 yr (9 months).)

逢一減四

雙除行十

是至年九

女九歲數

隻多定加

生餘無字

男數疑月

歌孕推男女法

In other words, compute

$$49 + m - y$$

-1 -2 - ...

stopping just before this

goes negative, and checking the parity.

八六也除五地二共法答

風八二七行除十五曰曰

除十三不除二九十置生

八皆五盡五人減七四男

偶七奇六除天減十

如九為律三除年九

數者男除四二加

多奇偶六時十孕

再二為七除一八

以四女生四一餘八

今有孕婦行年二十八歲，八月有孕，問所生男女？

Note $\max(y) = 49 + 9 = 58$.

briefly

Neglecting the mechanism by which sex is determined (chromosomes) and the fact that there are simply too many women in existence ~~at a given age~~ of a given age who shall carry a child for a given number of months, I point out that the ~~the~~ method above is still useless, because you can't really be sure how long the pregnancy has lasted until the woman goes into labour: by which time, you'll soon know the sex ~~any~~ of the newborn anyway.

Also twins etc.

20/9/23

See /code/shuen-pregnant.m
 Covering most pregnancies:

| Years y | Months m | | |
|---------|----------|---|---|
| | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 16 | F | M | F |
| 17 | M | F | M |
| 18 | F | M | F |
| 19 | M | F | M |
| 20 | F | M | F |
| 21 | M | F | M |
| 22 | F | M | F |
| 23 | M | F | M |
| 24 | F | M | F |
| 25 | M | F | M |
| 26 | F | M | F |
| 27 | M | F | M |
| 28 | F | M | F |
| 29 | F | F | M |
| 30 | M | F | F |
| 31 | F | M | F |
| 32 | M | F | M |

| Years y | Months m | | |
|---------|----------|---|---|
| | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 33 | F | M | F |
| 34 | M | F | M |
| 35 | F | M | F |
| 36 | M | F | M |
| 37 | F | M | F |
| 38 | M | F | M |
| 39 | F | M | F |
| 40 | M | F | M |
| 41 | F | M | F |
| 42 | F | F | M |
| 43 | M | F | F |
| 44 | F | M | F |
| 45 | M | F | M |
| 46 | F | M | F |
| 47 | M | F | M |
| 48 | F | M | F |
| 49 | M | F | M |
| 50 | F | M | F |
| 51 | F | F | M |
| 52 | M | F | F |
| 53 | F | M | F |
| 54 | M | F | M |
| 55 | F | M | F |
| 56 | F | F | M |
| 57 | ? | F | F |
| 58 | ? | ? | F |

here $49+m-y < 0$. END 9136
 END Volume III