

of urine, and (2nd) a slowing and steadying of the heart's movements. Prof. Riegel reports a number of very similar cases, where the results were invariably very satisfactory. In only one instance did it fail to produce the wished-for effect, and that was in a case where it was combined with morphia. A subsequent administration without the latter drug was followed by an increase in the quantity of the urine and a slowing of the pulse. Binz has pointed out that there exists a marked antagonism between caffeine and narcotics, especially morphia. It is difficult to explain how this alleged antagonism is brought about. It is, however, well to remember the possibility of its occurrence when prescribing caffeine. It is extremely seldom that the occasion can arise for the administration of morphia or other direct narcotic to combat the sleeplessness frequently present, and due to a failing heart. The best treatment for this form of insomnia is not a narcotic, but a cardiac stimulant like caffeine or digitalis. In other words, the sleeplessness due to ruptured compensation is best treated by an agent that restores the compensation to its previous state. When using caffeine especially, it is unnecessary to prescribe a direct hypnotic, seeing that in a few hours one may attain a better and more permanent result, because we remove the cause of the trouble.

The actions and uses of caffeine, when used in the form of the recently-introduced double salts may be summed up as follows :

1. It strengthens, slows, and steadies a weak, fast and irregular heart.

2. It quickly acts as a diuretic in cardiac dropsy, owing to its power of (a) raising the blood-pressure and (b) of stimulating the secreting structures of the kidneys.

3. It is of marked use in the same class of cases as digitalis is. It differs, however, from this drug in the following particulars : (a) It is less powerful as a cardiac tonic ; (b) It is a more powerful and prompt diuretic, and for this reason it gives relief quicker from all the troublesome subjective symptoms of cardiac failure.

It is probable that results obtainable from neither of these drugs when given singly, could be brought about if caffeine was