

THE STANDARDIZATION OF DIGITALIS AND THE POTENCY OF AMERICAN- GROWN DIGITALIS *

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This study was undertaken by us, at the suggestion of Dr. Janeway, in the endeavor to insure digitalis preparations of maximum and known effectiveness for use in the wards. These desiderata are so rarely fulfilled in any hospital that the results we have obtained seem worthy of a brief report.

METHODS OF STANDARDIZATION

Two methods of biologically standardizing digitalis preparations are commonly employed: the so-called "frog" method, and the so-called "cat" method. After a number of preliminary experiments it was found that the frog method was less reliable for the standardization of the infusion than the cat method¹: the latter method was therefore exclusively employed in this work. The technic followed by us was suggested by Hatcher and Brody,² and is somewhat similar to that described by them, and consisted in determining the minimal fatal dose per kilogram weight of cat, the drug being injected slowly into the femoral vein. Our procedure was briefly as follows:

A healthy cat was anesthetized with ether, and a cannula inserted into a femoral vein, subsequently a minimum amount of ether being administered, just sufficient to keep the animal

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1. It is advisable to make three toxicity experiments with each preparation and to take the average. As a rule wide variations are not encountered.

2. Hatcher and Brody: *Am. Jour. Pharm.*, 1910, lxxxii, 360.