

dermic injection of twenty-five minims of tincture of veratrum viride, I have in my last three cases at once brought the pulse down from 160 to 50 or 60 and the woman had no convulsion later than ten minutes after. My former assistant, Dr. De Cotret, now director of the largest lying-in hospital in Canada, who introduced the veratrum treatment at my request, tells me that he has had thirty-eight cases of eclampsia without a death of a mother.

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Selected Articles.

THE STUDY OF THE TREATMENT OF VARIOUS FORMS OF HEART DISEASE.

By G. R. Johnson, M. D., Philadelphia.

Undoubtedly, the most important point in the treatment of heart disease is rest. In the most severe stages this is absolutely necessary, for in this condition syncope is almost certain to follow any attempt at work, or even walking. The use of physiological mechanics is all-important in the treatment of heart cases, for, while much can be done by the use of drugs, yet nothing takes the place of rest. In fact, there are many cases in which drugs appear to be utterly useless, and it is possible to obtain improvement only by the use of long rest, lasting for weeks or months. The reason for this is very evident; anything which reduces the number of beats of the heart naturally reduces its work, and in a diseased organ this becomes a matter of moment. To use a disabled engine as little as possible renders its existence for a longer period possible. So it is with the heart, which is the machine from which life, as we know it, really springs.

Outside of the use of rest, it is well to consider the possibility of reducing the quantity of blood that comes into the heart from the right auricle and must be forced by that organ through the lungs and later driven through the body by the left ventricle. There is an old-time, deep-seated prejudice against the use of venesection, but it is a question whether this prejudice is not unreasoning. It is true possibly that venesection may be required only in urgent cases, but in these when the right ventricle is dammed with venous blood so that its contraction is imperiled and the stoppage