

3. When the drug is pushed until the fall in the arterial pressure which commenced in the kidney arterioles has extended so to take in the whole of the arterial system, there is a marked decrease in the quantity of urine.

*Uses.*—The great use of digitalis is in cases of heart failure, especially in cases of heart failure occurring as the result of organic changes in the valves of the heart. It is also useful before actual or pronounced failure has set in. If given in proper doses it is able to delay, often for a long period, the appearance of failure.

It makes but little difference what particular orifice may be narrowed or leaking, whether it is the mitral or aortic, digitalis is indicated. It certainly is more efficacious in some conditions than others, but in a general way the truth of the statement that it is indicated in all forms of heart failure is practically correct.

To have clear ideas as to what digitalis can do in restoring a failing heart it is necessary that you should understand what cardiac failure means, and how it is brought about as the result of a valvular lesion.

I have here the heart of a man, who died a few days ago from the effects produced by incompetence of his aortic valves. Through the kindness of Dr. R. L. Macdonnell he has been under my care at the University Dispensary for the diseases of the nervous system for the past seven months. During this time I had repeated opportunities of observing the marked relief that he obtained from digitalis. I will first point out the differences between this heart and a normal heart, and afterwards show how these differences came about, and finally I will refer to the influence digitalis has in preventing and relieving such changes, and what particular influence it had in relieving the symptoms and delaying the end of the case under consideration. By adopting this method I think I can make the actions and uses of digitalis plain to you.

The man at the time of his death was 35 years of age. Since his fifteenth year he had five distinct attacks of acute rheumatism. He distinctly remembers that his "heart was affected"