

accomplished a great deal. We are principally indebted for our present knowledge of the actions of this drug to Traube and Schmiedeberg of Germany, G. W. Balfour of Edinburgh, and Lauder Brunton of London. Brunton's and Balfour's names deserve especially to be remembered, the former for the elaborate and painstaking experiments by means of which he demonstrated its true physiological actions, the latter for showing us how to use it to the best advantage in cases of cardiac failure.

Mode of Administration.—In prescribing the tincture of digitalis it is as a rule better to give it alone. Its combination with an iron preparation forms not only an unsightly looking mixture, but it is much more apt to disagree with the stomach than when given alone. If, therefore, iron is indicated in a cardiac case, and it frequently is, it is advisable not to combine it with digitalis, but to order it in a separate mixture.

Powdered digitalis can be prescribed in the pilular form. There is a famous combination known as Baly's pill, which is much relied upon by many physicians to remove a dropsy. The following is the composition of this pill:—

R Pulv. Digitalis
Pulv. Scillae
Pil. Hydrarg $\bar{a}\bar{a}$ gr. i.

S. One pill two or three times daily.

The use of the so-called active principle, Nativelle's or Quévenne's digitaline, is not to be recommended when we wish to bring about saturation symptoms, on account of the uncertainty of its action. It, however, can be employed with safety to produce the tonic effects of the drug.