

It should be mentioned that just before the patient was admitted the first time into the hospital, she had been tapped.

The second case* is one reported by Dr. F. T. Roberts, of University College. It was one of mitral obstructive disease, with irregular and inefficient cardiac action; deficient secretion of urine; moderate dropsy of the legs and considerable ascites. The obvious results of the administration of the convallaria were:

1. A distinct improvement in the action of the heart, which became more regular and efficient, while the thrill and murmur became more evident.

2. A considerable and progressive increase in the quantity of urine produced.

3. Rapid diminution and ultimate disappearance of the œdema of the legs and the ascites.

In speaking of this case, Dr. Roberts says "that the compound jalap powder helped, no doubt, to get rid of the last symptoms; but the other effects noted were, unquestionably, due to the convallaria, and the increase in the quantity of urine must have been an important factor in removing the dropsical accumulation. I have thought it worth while to report this case in support of the value of convallaria in the treatment of cardiac affections, although I do not for a moment believe that it will entirely supersede other drugs. The patient is now practically well, so far as symptoms is concerned, but the signs of mitral obstructive disease are very distinct."

Dose and Mode of Administration.—Judging from a few trials, the glucoside convallamarin possesses all the active cardiac properties of the plant, with none of its disadvantages. Preparations made from the plant itself are much more likely to bring about vomiting and diarrhœa. For these reasons, the convallamarin should be preferred. Next to it, as an efficient preparation is a fluid extract of the flowers. An infusion of the whole plant is not only unreliable, but is very apt to disagree.

The dose of convallamarin is from one to two grains. It can be made into pill with glycerine of tragacanth.

* *Practitioner*, April, 1884.