

## DIGITALIS IN TYPHOID FEVER.

After a great number of experiments Dr. Leidy concludes that in the healthy adult digitalis lowers the temperature 1 to 1½ degrees, and this diminished temperature persists for one or two days. In typhoid cases digitalis diminishes the frequency of the pulse, the number of the respirations, and the temperature, these three effects being produced simultaneously.

Its use is indicated when there are symptoms of feeble heart-action, especially when it is accompanied by great adynamia. It is contra-indicated when the pulse is full and bounding.

Dr. Leidy prefers the tincture in typhoid fever, and the infusion if there be any chronic cardiac trouble. Moreover, he does not hesitate, if there is gastric intolerance, to give the remedy hypodermically, and notes successful results when it is combined with cool water and quinine.—*L'Union Médicale*, August 7, 1890, p. 189.

## AMMONIUM BROMIDE FUMES IN ASTHMA.

The value of the fumes of ammonium chloride in some varieties of bronchial and naso-pharyngeal catarrh, suggested the use of the bromide salt in the same diseases complicated with spasm. The ordinary solutions of hydro-bromic acid were found to be useless, for the purpose, and a strong acid, with a specific gravity of 1.7, was substituted. This, with a solution of ammonia, gave abundant fumes. In several patients suffering from asthma, a few whiffs relieved the dyspnoea at once. In some cases, when used early, the inhalations aborted the paroxysms.—*Medical News*, June 14, 1890.

## OLIVE OIL IN GALL-STONE COLIC.

During the last few years clinical experience has been strongly in favor of the beneficial results following the use of olive oil in the treatment of gall-stones, but no adequate explanation has hitherto been offered. Dr. D. D. Stewart suggests an explanation which certainly is ingenious. He believes that the effect possibly results from the decomposition of oils and fats in the duodenum into their fatty acids and glycerine; and he suggests that, as glycerine in the rectum causes hyperemia, irritation, and powerful reflex peristalsis, so in the duodenum it may cause energetic reflex contraction of the gall-bladder, cystic and common bile ducts, and perhaps may lead to a copious outflow of diluted bile, which would aid in expelling the stone. He believes a free flow of pancreatic juice is necessary for the splitting up of the oil, and that the failures of the oil treatment may, perhaps, be explained by the concurrent employment of belladonna or atropine, which suppresses the pancreatic secretions.—*Lancet*, June 4, 1890.

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## FEWER DRUGS.

It is one of the illusions and also one of the misfortunes of the young graduate that he leaves the university with the idea that there are some four or five thousand drugs at his command, each one of which will do exactly what it is represented to do in the pharmacopoea. He starts in practice, is called to his first case, tries one after the other of half a dozen drugs which are highly recommended, and just when he is about to try the best one, his patient is transferred to some body else, very probably to an older and more knowing practitioner, who in the course of 50 years, has rooted out 4,950 of the 5,000, keeping only a few remedies, but each one of which he knows by long experience to be reliable. We remember many instances of this in our younger days. For instance, an old gentleman under our care suffering from bronchitis was getting worse and worse under a costly prescription containing all the new drugs recommended for this disease, when one of the oldest practitioners was called in consultation, and much to our surprise, ordered nitrate of potash, and as a matter of fact