dissented from the statement of Stannius that digitaline did not affect batrachian reptiles. On the contrary, he found that the action of digitaline was most powerful on frogs. When injected under the skin it produced in a few minutes manifest changes in the movements of the heart; the auricles begin to contract somewhat irregularly, but the movements of the ventricle are especially affected, they contract with great irregularity, certain points of the ventricle appearing to escape the general movement; at the same time the pulsations become slower and slower, and after some minutes the heart becomes motionless. The ventricle stops first and remains empty, pale, and contracted, the auricles continue for a short time to act, but too feebly to force the blood into the ventricle; they remain fully dilated after the contraction of the ventricle. There is also this peculiarity observed, that even after the arrest of the heart's action the frog will continue to leap about with but little less vivacity than in the normal condition. There are several other poisons which act in the same way as digitaline when introduced under the skin of the frog; these are, the poison of the toad and of the aquatic salamander, *Upas antiar*, alcoholic extract of *Tanghinia venenifera*, and watery and alcoholic extracts of the *Veratrum viride*. M. Vulpian concluded by stating that he had tried other vegetable poisons and tannin, and had never observed analogous phenomena.

The experiments of MM. Bouley and Reynal had been made with digitaline on horses. They had never observed the cardiac ventricles contracted. On the contrary, the heart had always appeared flabby; but as the examinations were made five or six hours after death this might have been due to the commencement of putrefaction, which takes place much more quickly in herbivora than in carnivora, especially after death by the vegetable poisons.

The only other point to be noticed is that La Pommerais had endeavoured to explain the great diminution in the quantity of digitaline found in his possession by saying that he prescribed it externally as well as internally, and that besides furnishing it to his patients, he had distributed it to students who were his pupils. He said he had also sent a quantity to his brother-in-law, a chemist, in the country, who had the packet still in his possession. The packet was subsequently produced, and submitted to analysis by M. Roussin. Analysis showed that if digitaline was present at all it was in infinitesimal proportions. The contents of the packet consisted of sugar of milk.

In concluding an article, the length of which is only justified by the scientific importance of the trial, we shall offer but few comments. As we have said, we believe the guilt of the prisoner was entirely proved,