

GUAIACOL IN CHRONIC COUGHS.

A. Goldhammer (*Medical Record*, October 23, 1897) claims to have had remarkable success with this drug in many cases of cough of long standing, in which no tuberculous element could be recognized. He was first led to the employment of this remedy in a case in which the cough had existed for two years and numerous other drugs had been used without avail. Under the use of guaiacol daily for one month the cough disappeared, and the patient has been entirely free from it ever since—a period of ten months. Since then he has used guaiacol in every case of cough of more than two weeks' duration, irrespective of origin. He has found it of decided value in cases of chronic bronchitis with or without asthma. In the chronic coughs of children guaiacol has proved especially beneficial. He has employed it even in several cases of whooping-cough with excellent results. The paroxysms were rendered less severe and less numerous, and the duration of the attack was cut short to two or three weeks. For children of a delicate temperament, who have a poor appetite and who occasionally have a slight cough, guaiacol is a valuable remedy. It stops the cough entirely in a short time, increases the appetite, and causes the patient to gain in flesh. It is his opinion that many a case of incipient tuberculosis could be prevented, if every old cough, no matter how slight, were treated by the administration of guaiacol. In acute coughs guaiacol does not act beneficially and should not be employed.

The author has recorded thirty cases of cough of varied origin and description, in which no distinct tuberculous element could be recognized, and in which he employed guaiacol as a remedy. In twenty-six of these cases the cough disappeared entirely after the drug was used for periods of from two to six weeks. In the four remaining cases the cough was decidedly improved, although not entirely cured. Eighteen of these cases were in children under ten years; nine were in adults, three of whom were over sixty-five years of age. The article is accompanied by the history of five cases.—*Medicine*.

THE USE OF DIGITALIS IN AORTIC INCOMPETENCY.

That property of some minds which causes them to extend particular experiences into general conclusions has led to much difference of opinion as to the rôle of digitalis in the