

CONTINUOUS USE OF DIGITALIS IN HEART TROUBLES.

J. Groedel, in the *Practitioner* for April, 1900, says that cardiac insufficiency is an inevitable result of advancing heart changes. Compensation is established in most cases of valvular disease and may last for months or years, but if the patient lives there is sure to come a time in which heart failure is more or less pronounced. In those cases he recommends continual administration of digitalis, and advises that we should not wait until signs of want of compensation develop, such as dropsy, anemia and tachycardia. He recommends that the digitalis be given in doses of from eight to ten grains once each week. At such wide intervals the drug has no cumulative effect, but during its administration the quantity of urine should be carefully determined, and if it is not augmented the drug should be withdrawn. In the great majority of cases the digitalis is well borne by the patient, and the charge which is made that the drug causes a loss of strength and increases the weakness of the patient is unfounded, these changes occurring as a result of the disease for which the drug is given, and not of the drug itself. He is convinced that where fatty degeneration is markedly benefited by digitalis there is sometimes a subjective cure of these cases.—*Gaillard's Medical Journal*.

HOT AIR IN CHRONIC RHEUMATISM.

T. L. Satterthwaite recently read a paper before the New York Academy of Medicine on this subject, an abstract of which appears in the *Medical News* of April 14, 1900. He says that the application of superheated air was originally suggested in *Medicine* by Turkish baths. A patient in a simple warm chamber rebreathes the products of his own respiration. In a Turkish bath the temperature cannot be raised above 170° F.; in the hot air, parts of the body can be subjected to a temperature of 400°. The main idea in the apparatus so far devised for giving the hot-air treatment has been to keep the skin dry while the air is heated all around the limb or part of the body that is to be subjected to the high temperature. For this purpose, when the temperature to be borne is not very high, the part is simply covered with a Turkish towel. When temperatures above 300° F. are to be employed, the part must be carefully wrapped and no spaces allowed to exist between the cloth and the skin; otherwise the perspiration at these points will become so heated as to scald the patient. Machines properly constructed should be so lined with asbestos that