

Selections.

Tincture of Strophanthus and Strophanthin.

As a result of research upon strophanthus and its active principle, Hatcher and Bailey reach the following conclusions in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* of January 2, 1909 :—

The dosage and the proper mode of exhibiting strophanthus and strophanthin require clinical investigation. The action of strophanthin may be elicited promptly in suitable cases by injecting it subcutaneously. Three-tenths to half a milligramme of the crystallized strophanthin in sterile (boiled) salt solution, 1:4000, may be injected deeply into the gluteal muscle once in twenty-four hours without fear of abscess formation or other side actions.

The single adult dose of crystallized strophanthin by the mouth is about 5 milligrammes or less, the daily dose 30 milligrammes or less. The single adult dose of the official strophanthin by the mouth is probably about 10 milligrammes, and the daily adult dose by the mouth is probably about 60 milligrammes, but the latter dose should not be used until we have further clinical experience concerning the various factors governing its absorption.

The action of tincture of strophanthus by the mouth and the factors modifying its absorption require further clinical study. Uniformity of action can only be secured by uniform absorption, and this is influenced by the menstruum in which the drug is given and the condition of the alimentary canal at the time of administration.

It is quite possible that diet may influence the absorption of strophanthin in the human alimentary canal, so that man may at one time resemble the rodent and at another time the carnivorous animals (cat and dog) in susceptibility to strophanthin.—*Therapeutic Gazette*.

Bacterio-Therapy.

When Wright first enunciated his now obsolescent theory of opsonins it was the expressed hope in certain quarters that a final solution of the vexed problem of specific therapy had been reached. The theory is an attractive one, and on first sight appears to rest on a demonstrable physiological foundation. The existence of substances in the body whose function is modifica-