

Through what agencies it slows and strengthens the heart's movements and increases the blood pressure, has not been definitely determined.

It is claimed by German Sée and other French observers that it has marked diuretic powers. That in addition to its power increasing the quantity of urine through its action on the blood pressure, it has a direct influence in stimulating the secreting structures of the kidneys. The diuretic action of convallaria resembles that of caffeine. It has no influence, it is said, in causing any considerable increase in the quantity of urine in a normal condition of the circulation. It is eliminated for the most part by the kidneys, and on heating the urine of a patient who has been taking it for a few days, a slight cloudiness is observable, due to the resin of the plant and not to albumen.

*Therapeutics.*—The only use of convallaria is as a heart tonic, in cases of failure due to organic disease. It is said to be especially operative in cases of dropsy due to mitral lesions. Its power in strengthening a failing heart is much less than that of digitalis. The latter drug, except in advanced cases of fibrofatty degeneration, if properly administered, seldom or never fails of at least partially restoring a ruptured compensation.

Convallaria, at times, acts as well as digitalis, and frequently with more promptitude, but in a considerable number of cases it is much less efficient—while it not unfrequently fails entirely in bringing about the wished for results.

If the three prominent cardiac tonics were to be arranged in the order of their power, we would have digitalis first, caffeine next, and convallaria occupying the third place. Arranged according to the promptitude of their action, caffeine would be the first on the list, convallaria second and digitalis third. Arranged according to the order of their freedom from untoward effects, caffeine would certainly hold the first place, convallaria the second and digitalis the third. A preparation made from all parts of the convallaria plant is as likely to cause gastric disturbance as digitalis, while it is much more likely to cause intestinal irritation than the latter. Preparations of the leaves and of the glucoside convallamarin are, however, seldom, if ever, fol-