

Mr. W. observes: "It may be mentioned that the cost of the outfit, and extra travelling expenses, amounted to about \$130, of which the Natural History Society of Montreal paid \$94.28, and myself the remainder." We cannot think it possible that an undertaking attended with such results as Mr. Whiteaves' has produced will be allowed to go unremunerated. Surely the Government are able to afford the expenditure of a few dollars in work generally acknowledged to be advantageous; in fact, absolutely necessary; and we do hope that the money already expended by individual enterprise will be voted, together with an appropriation to the scientist for his loss of time. We believe that a sum of \$500 has been voted this year for the work, which, we think, will barely pay the expenses of the expedition, and leave nothing for the pay of the scientific head who conducts the operations. Science is all very well in its way, but we trust, for the honour of the country, that the Hon. Peter Mitchell will bring the matter before Parliament and see that a liberal reward will be made to the gentleman who has inaugurated a work fraught with such important consequences, full of interest in its purely scientific results, and by no means devoid of practical utility."

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## Medical News.

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### ACTION OF DIGITALIS.

M. Gourvat (*Gazette Medicale*, 1871, Nos. 26, etc., and 1872, 1, 2, 4 5) finds that moderate doses of digitaline given to frogs paralyze the motor nerves of voluntary muscles; and larger doses destroy the irritability of the muscles themselves. Involuntary muscular fibres appear to be stimulated by it. Moderate doses cause a transient contraction of the arterioles; large doses cause a longer contraction. In both cases the contraction of the arterioles is succeeded by paralysis and dilatation. The contraction is caused by the action of the digitaline on the vasomotor nerves, and not on the walls of the arterioles themselves. The beats of the heart are rendered stronger, slower, and more regular, by moderate doses. The arterial tensions is increased. The retardation of the pulse is due to the increase in the arterial tension, and is proportioned to it. The contraction of the arterioles lessens the secretion from the skin, mucous membranes, and glands, except the kidneys, the urine being increased.—*Medical and Surgery Reporter.*