

spaired of at the time. The state of degeneration was much advanced, and she had some general dropsy. She lived to take it for eight months—five minim doses three times a day; but about six months after its first administration the cardiac response became more feeble, until she succumbed. I believe her life was prolonged with some comfort by the use of strophanthus. I have at present a case of fatty degeneration of the heart in a woman, aged forty-nine, accompanied by an attack of angina, much dyspnea, and palpitation. I have administered to her five minim doses every hour till the action of the heart is quieted, and the breathing rendered easy. She now takes it three times a day in the form of a mixture, which can safely be trusted to the patient, namely:—Tincture strophanthus, one and a half fluid drachms; extract ergot liq. six fluid drachms; spirit chloroform, one and a half fluid ounces; aquæ lauracere ad. four fluid ounces; a teaspoonful three times a day in a wine-glass of water. The latter patient has taken this mixture during the last week with marked benefit.

I have had, unfortunate experience from the use of tincture prepared from other parts of the plant than the seed, in two cases which eventually proved fatal. Judging from actual observation at the bedside, I can not but pronounce it as uncertain in action and totally unreliable, notwithstanding the assurance of the druggist of its equal efficacy when the supply of seeds had gone out of the market at the end of last year."—*Leonard's Illustrated*.

Playfair on Apostoli's Method.

The *Nash. Jour.* gives the following reply by Dr. Playfair to a letter of enquiry from Dr. McKee of Cincinnati: That it is a therapeutic agent of great power and considerable promise I am sure. I doubt, however, if it will accomplish all of Apostoli's somewhat enthusiastic estimate. Roughly speaking, I have hitherto found the most satisfactory and remarkable results from the use of the negative electro current in cases of membranous dysmenorrhœa and chronic endometritis with glairy, glutinous discharge. One or two of my cases of this kind have been quite remarkable, and have yielded to two or three applications when all other treatment had failed. The hemostatic effect in hemorrhagic fibroids has so far disappointed me.

This, however, may be only a temporary conclusion. Some of my cases have done really well, others have not improved. Keith's remarkable statement that he has not once performed laparotomy in such cases since adopting this treatment is of the greatest moment, and makes me certain that my own cases are, as yet, not numerous enough to decide this point. I have had, at least, one very remarkable case of rapid absorption of a large fibro-myoma under negative electric puncture. I had known and watched the tumor for years. After three applications of currents of 100, 150, and 200 milli-amperes, it reduced from the size of a large human head to that of a shaddock (a large orange). There was, however, a good deal of pyrexia and constitutional disturbance that at one time caused me considerable anxiety. I am sure that electrical treatment must be very carefully and not indiscriminately used, otherwise serious mischief may accrue.

Antifebrin in Hemicrania.

Ott (*Prager Med. Wochenschrift*, No. 47, 1887), has found that antifebrin exerts an extremely prompt action in hemicrania, even in obstinate and old cases. He gives seven and one-half grains at the beginning of the attack. The result is said to be admirable. The drug also did good service in a woman suffering from trigeminal and optical neuralgia, with dysmenorrhœa.

Gen Paragraphs

Unabsorbed Pills.

We constantly read or hear about cases in which pills have not been digested and absorbed, being not unfrequently passed in the same condition as far as rotundity of form and perfection of coating are concerned as when first ingested.

The eternal "Why?" has been put in requisition here as in everything else, and various theories have been advanced as to the cause, probable, or more often fanciful, of the non-absorption of that beautiful and most elegant looking pharmaceutical preparation, the "Sugar Coated" Pill.

The following excerpt from Remington in his "Practice of Pharmacy" has suggested to us a very probable solution of the question, why are sugar coated pills passed unaltered? In the description of the process of putting a finish or polish on the pill he says: