

be precipitated upon the patient. He therefore emphasizes the fact that there is danger in this method as well as value, and that the chief object of the physician should be to maintain, if possible, a steady rate of elimination of the infecting agents and of their toxins, asserting that calcium chloride can have no place in our treatment of the early stages because it will probably increase the exudate within the alveoli. He insists that the more urgent duty of relieving local congestion by leeches, the use of cardiac stimulation, and an endeavor to stimulate excretion in every way, should be the plan of campaign. Finally, he urges, instead of using drugs which will increase the coagulability of the blood, that we employ the citrate and iodide of potassium to diminish the coagulability of the blood, and for the purpose of ultimately aiding in the absorption of the exudate.—*Therapeutic Gazette*.

Digitalis Preparations.

It is an old experience that digitalis leaves are very variable in their activity. Withering, who did so much to encourage the use of this remedy, insisted that the leaves should be gathered only at the time of the plant's blossoming, not in moist weather, and should be dried carefully in not too high a temperature and kept in a dry place. Further observations have shown that wild plants alone are valuable, and that those which grow in sunny spots contain more active principle than those which grow in the shade; and Focke, in a most thorough investigation (*Therapie der Gegenwart*, 1902, p. 44), showed that there were regular variations in therapeutic efficiency in the leaves during the time of their development, leaves gathered early in the year being only one-fourth as active as those gathered late in the summer. The importance of many of these and other significant facts was not lost to the revisers of the last edition of the United States Pharmacopœia, and the progressive druggist should know the essential features of leaves which come up to the standard.

One feature of this study has been somewhat neglected, and in view of the wide use of dry preparations (tablets, etc.) of digitalis, a research of E. Wang (*Festkrift tillägnad Olof Hammarsten*, Upsala Läkareförenings Förhandlingar xi) is of immediate practical interest. He sought to determine what changes took place as the leaves themselves after gathering grew older, for which purpose extracts made from the leaves gathered from the years 1884 to 1906 were carefully tested on frogs, and the activity of the glucosides determined.

Focke's contention that if good leaves were carefully dried