

DIGITALIS IN THE FAILING HEART.—Dr. Horatio Wood, in speaking of the use of digitalis, says that in the failing heart the coronary artery gets little or no blood at the very time when the heart is being overworked and overworried it is starving. But when the great wave of digitalis action comes, it swells out the aorta, it fills the coronary artery, it goes into every part of the heart, it brings sustenance and food, and the old effete material that has been clogging the heart walls is also squeezed out by the powerful contraction of the muscle. Digitalis also has the power of stimulating to a point of intense activity the pneumogastric nerve.

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INTERCOSTAL NEURALGIA.—Frank Billings, M.D., in Chicago *Medical Recorder* for September, deals with this trouble. He regards it always as a secondary affection, and, therefore, a symptom only. The patient and the physician readily overlook the real disease. Neuritis of the intercostal nerves is rare. It may be due to toxic conditions, as in typhoid fever or rheumatism. Pressure from an aneurism may produce it. The functional form is very common. It is usually due to toxæmia from malaria, or lead-poisoning, etc. Auto-intoxication may exist from disease of the kidneys, constipation, or weak heart action; most commonly it is due to faulty digestion. The trouble may arise from domestic cares, or anxiety and worry. Improper food and lack of outdoor exercise are often found in these cases. The treatment is palliative and radical—the former for the relief of present pain; the latter for the cure of the conditions at fault and affecting the general health.

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ADVICE TO THOSE WHO CONTEMPLATE THE STUDY OF MEDICINE.—THE *British Medical Journal* for September 7th has some very wise words for young men who are considering the advisability of entering the medical profession. It is of the utmost importance, it says, that the student and his advisers should have a clear idea of the object to be aimed at. Life-long disappointment may be the consequence of a false step at the outset. Among the careers in which the highest prizes are open to all who have wit and energy, and can afford the cost of the necessary course of study, medicine offers to many the highest attractions. The scientific character of the study, the purely personal nature of the work, the life of intimacy with many people of many ranks, the possibility—dim perhaps, but still the possibility—of wealth and honor, and the almost certainty at least of bread and cheese as the reward of patience, sobriety, and hard work, are sure to draw