

After taking bromide and digitalis without any benefit, was ordered one grain of theine three times a day, and the attacks of vertigo ceased entirely. Case 10. A. C., male, æt. 19, got rid of his fits under the use of bromides, but remained very subject to vertigo : on adding two grains of theine to his medicine the attacks of giddiness ceased. Case 11. Lizzie T., æt. 21, obtained cessation of fits by 15 grains brom. pot. combined with two minims tincture digitalis taken three times a day, but was much troubled with frequent vertigo, which was not benefited by dieting and attention to the bowels, or by rhubarb and soda or caffeine in doses of two grains three times a day. On putting her on minim doses of nitro-glycerine three times a day, she was at once relieved. Case 12. M. S., female, æt. 19, has had fits for five years every month. Under bromides the fits were effectually controlled, but she complained much of frequent attacks of giddiness, which were not at all relieved by two-grain doses of theine. I substituted minim doses nitro-glycerine (1 o/o solut.) which were raised afterwards to two minims, and on this treatment she remained quite free from giddiness.

The principal points to which I desire to draw attention are : 1. The value of combining bromide salts with each other and with digitalis. 2. The value of zinc and canabis indica as adjuvants to the bromide. 3. The use of borax in some cases which resist the bromides. 4. The employment of caffeine or theine and nitro-glycerine in the treatment of epileptic vertigo.—*Practitioner*.

### CONVALLARIA MAJALIS IN HEART DISEASE.

Recently efforts have been made to give this remedy the place of digitalis as a diuretic and remedy for certain forms of heart disease.

It is an old remedy. Culpepper regarded it as a valuable remedy for weak memory, lost speech and apoplexy. Gerarde recommended it for gout. For long years the peasants of eastern Europe have valued it in cases of dropsy. In 1880 Drs. Troitsky and Bogojavlensky, two Russian physicians, on investigating its action, said that it was valuable in certain forms of heart disease. Prof. Botkin, of St. Petersburg, confirmed most of these results. In July, 1882, Professor Germain Sée published the results of his experiments. (*Bull. Gen. Ther., Brit. Med. Jour.*)

In 1858 Walz isolated two glucoside, which he named "convallarin" and "convallamarin." The investigation of their chemical and physiological properties by Tanret and Marne soon followed. It was found that convallarin possesses purgative properties only, while convallamarin is a heart poison, allied to digitalis, helleborin, etc. The preparations usually employed are the aqueous extract of the leaves, an aqueous extract of the flowers, and the extract of the entire plant. The last is the best for the obtaining of the full therapeutic effect.

A drop of the extract of the flowers injected under the skin of a frog arrests its heart in systole very much as digitalis and some other remedies do. Four drops of this injected into the vein of a dog caused death in ten minutes. The heart appears to be first slowed, and the respirations are quickened. Then the heart's action becomes irregular and the pulsations weak and very rapid. The blood pressure first raises and then falls. The respirations gradually diminish. The heart stops first, then the pressure falls to zero, and the respiratory movements stop. The excitability of the pneumogastric is weakened, although not abolished.

Prof. Sée reports five cases of mitral insufficiency characterized by want of rhythm, œdema of the lower extremities, dyspnœa, etc. The doses of the extract given were from seven to fifteen grains daily. In each case there was marked improvement; the heart's action becoming stronger, the breathing better, and an increase in the amount of urine passed.

A case with mitral stenosis was also benefited; so, also, several cases of aortic insufficiency.

Thus it appears that the favorable effects of this drug upon the heart and blood vessels are constant and reliable.

Favorable reports have been made as to its practical value, in cases of palpitation from exhaustion of the pneumogastrics, in simple cardiac erythema with or without hypertrophy and with or without valvular lesions, in dilatation of the heart, etc.

Some observers have failed to get any appreciable effect from this drug. But it would seem from the mass of favorable evidence adduced that they must have either had a poor article, or failed to use it in appropriate doses.—*Detroit Lancet*.

### ON PERSONAL PRECAUTIONS THAT MAY BE ADOPTED BY MEDICAL MEN WHILST ATTENDING CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Dr. Charles Green makes these suggestions in the *Lancet* :

1. Always have the window opened before entering the patient's room or ward.
2. Never stand between the patient and the fire, but always between him and the open window.
3. If possible, change your coat before entering the room.
4. Do not go in for unnecessary auscultation or other physical examination.
5. Stay as short a time as possible in the room.
6. Never, while in the room, swallow any saliva.
7. After leaving the sick room, wash the hands with water containing an antiseptic.
8. Rinse out the mouth with diluted "toilet Sanitas" or Condy's fluid, also gargle the throat with it, and bathe the eyes, mouth and nostrils.