

dose taken, an alteration in the sufferings of the patient was observed. The heart-sounds were firmer and steadier; pulse-beats, though still irregular, were not so fast; cough was much less troublesome, and the palpitation was neither so frequent nor so violent. Along with this there was a copious increase in the renal secretion, which soon relieved both the visceral engorgement and oedema in the feet and legs. In fourteen days she felt so well as to be able to return to her household duties. In the other case of mitral disease the symptoms were much the same, but not nearly so severe. The same dose was given, and the effect was as satisfactory and rapid.

"Another case of aortic stenosis in an old lady aged 60, who had for years been a martyr to chronic cough, palpitation, and the other symptoms attendant upon stenosis of the aortic orifice, received great relief from a one-minim dose of the drug. In this case palpitation was very violent, the pulse was rapid, and there was extensive passive congestion of both lungs. Oedema of the feet and legs was also present in a marked degree. Under the influence of strophanthus the pulse became slower and firmer, the congestion in the lungs lessened day by day and copious diuresis soon made an alteration in the oedema. The palpitation was trifling compared to what she previously suffered, and her cough was much relieved.

"In the other nine cases in which I administered the drug I could find no trace of a murmur, and the purpose for which the medicine was administered was to allay in some measure the turbulent palpitation of which these people complained. In seven of these cases the palpitation seemed to be dependent upon dyspepsia; remedies were given for that condition. Strophanthus was also used in the hope of its exerting a calming and steadying influence upon the heart, which in all of them it succeeded in doing.

"The remaining two were cases of disordered innervation. The pulse was very rapid and irregular, the heart's action turbulent—so much so that at times the sounds could not be differentiated, but seemed all merged in a confused rumble. Both of these patients were much benefited, and though the symptoms of which they complained the loudest—namely, palpitation—is not banished, they find that it can be kept within reasonable bounds by a timely dose of strophanthus. All the patients expressed the opinion that the drug had a stimulating effect, which, however, soon wore off. Some of them professed to feel beneficial effects ten minutes after taking their appointed dose. The effect of the medicine was rapid, but did not remain long, and at the end of three or four hours required to be renewed. The system quickly became used to the drug, and to get the amount of benefit the dose required to be gradually increased.

"In prescribing it I combined it with some bitter infusion, and never failed to get physiological action. I have never seen sickness or gastric

irritation produced, such as we meet with sometimes after digitalis.

"The preparation I used was tincture of the strength of 1 in 8."

TANNIC ACID AS A SURGICAL DRESSING.

Dr. T. J. Hutton writes to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, that after sixteen years use of tannic acid as a surgical dressing, he is thoroughly satisfied as to its efficiency:

"It forms an excellent dressing in three classes of wounds, viz.:

"1. Incised wounds—applied after the sutures are inserted, or adhesive plaster is on—if the wound does not require stitching.

"2. Small wounds of irregular form and recent occurrence.

"3. Wounds of moderate size in compound fractures. Whenever applicable it excels all other dressings in the following respects.

"1. Convenience.

"2. Cheapness.

"3. Cleanliness.

"4. Efficiency.

"It is always ready. It costs but a trifle. It requires no greasy mixing, measuring, or muddling, and has neither smut nor smell.

"The method of application is simply to keep the wound covered with the powder. Wounds thus treated heal on the average in about one-third of the time required for similar ones treated by liquid, oily, or salve dressings. In converting compound fractures into simple fractures by this method, the flesh-wound is often healed in one-twelfth of the time required to heal it by wet dressings of salves that are frequently removed and re-applied."

THE TREATMENT OF ORCHITIS AND EPIDIDYMITIS.

There is such a diversity of opinion as to the best treatment of orchitis and epididymitis the result of acute gonorrhoea, that the results obtained by Mr. Frederick W. Lowndes (*Lancet*, July 24 1886) for the last eleven years in the Liverpool Lock Hospital are of considerable importance. The plan practised in this hospital is almost invariably that introduced by Mr. Furneaux Jordan in 1869, namely, by painting the affected testicle with a strong solution of nitrate of silver (two drachms to the ounce), at the same time enforcing strict rest in bed, and supporting the inflamed organ upon a small pillow so as to prevent it hanging down. Mr. Lowndes has invariably employed the same treatment, and in eleven years has treated two hundred and sixty-nine cases. He has always found his plan highly successful. The acute pain often amounting to agony is soon subdued, and in the majority of cases the organ returns to its normal size in the course of a few days. Sometimes a