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Miscellaneous

THE TREATMENT OF DIGITALIS POISONING; EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS.—Drs. J. J. Taylor and C. R. Marshall (*British Medical Journal*, November 4th) say: The treatment of digitalis poisoning must be symptomatic. We know of no antidote in any true sense of the word, to this drug. Nor do we think we shall ever know of one. Digitalis enters very slowly into the tissue metabolism; it produces distinct structural changes, and it is slowly eliminated. It therefore possesses a most unfortunate character for action of the antidote. Apparently all that we can do is to withdraw the drug if it is being given medicinally, to clear the alimentary canal of any digitalis it may contain, and increase the rapidity of elimination by diluents; to allay sickness, to reduce arterial tension when high, procure sleep if necessary, and treat every symptom as it arises. In other words, the condition must be treated as if it were, which it is, an ill understood disease. For the reduction of the arterial tension nitroglycerine, or an ally, is the best remedy; but with the low blood pressure, which is not infrequently present in digitalis poisoning, these substances are useless. In such cases small doses of alcohol, insufficient to produce vasodilatation, would probably prove of greater service.—*Medical Record*.