

ents. After the external administration of guaiacol it appears in the urine in fifteen minutes, reaching its maximum in from one and one-half to four hours, then decreasing rapidly for six or seven hours, till at the end of twenty-four hours only a trace was observed. No less than 55½ per cent. was eliminated in this way. He concludes: 1. That used in this way guaiacol is a valuable addition to our list of trustworthy antipyretics; and although the tendency of recent experience is greatly to restrict the usefulness of this class of remedies, yet whenever the employment of an antipyretic is indicated, guaiacol offers advantages which deserve attention. 2. That, by virtue of its diaphoretic effects, it may possibly be of value as an eliminant in adynamic conditions arising from the retention in the system of toxic substances. 3. That, by reason of its anti-microbic properties and the large amount of the drug which can be introduced in this way into the system, it is likely to be of service as an internal antiseptic, especially in the treatment of phthisis. For therapeutic purposes twenty to thirty minims would generally be sufficient.—*British Medical Journal*, 1894, No. 1749, p. 6.

THE VASO-DILATOR ACTION OF STRYCHNINE.

M. C. DELEZENNE recalls the observation of Wertheimer that at the moment when the arterial pressure rises under the influence of a strychnine injection an intense redness invades the mucous membranes of the lips and tongue. In a series of observations upon temperature, venous pressure, and from a consideration of the literature it is probable that the peripheral arterioles do not share in the constriction which affects the deep vessels. Evidently then, strychnine is an enegetic dilator of the peripheral vascular network, and if its action upon the whole of the vasomotor system is taken into consideration it appears to be identical with that of asphyxia and of excitation of sensory nerves.—*Archives de Physiologie*, 1894, No. 4, p. 899.

THE THERAPEUTIC EFFECTS OF DIGITOXINE.

M. MASIUS has used this drug in his clinic for more than a year. The formula employed has been that of Adrian, or one hundredth of a one per cent. solution in alcohol and sweetened water. The dose is two teaspoonfuls, representing one-sixty-fourth of a grain, which is administered in three doses at an interval of four hours. The diseases in which it has been employed are pneumonia, typhoid fever, and cardiac affections. The cases have been carefully observed, and the following conclusions are offered: 1. That it acts rapidly and energetically, the gastric disturbances being neither frequent nor considerable. 2. Its action upon the circulation is evident after twelve hours, more frequently after twenty-four hours; the cyanosis, the respiratory disturbance yields at the end of this time, the volume and resistance of the pulse increase, the inequality and irregularity disappear, the frequency becomes reduced within normal limits; the patient feels better, the nights are satisfactory and the general condition improved. 3. The diuresis is not slow in being influenced, and may attain in certain cases four quarts per day, reached on an average, at the end of twenty-four hours. The effect of the drug lasts ordinarily from eight to ten days. 4. In pneumonia

its action upon the temperature is noted at the the end of twenty-four to forty-eight hours; the tonic effect upon the pulse is the same as in heart-diseases. 5. In typhoid fever the action upon the temperature and circulation is favorable.—*Bulletin de l'Académie Royale de Médecine de Belgique*, 1894, No. 6, p. 323.

THE USE OF SPARTEINE IN CHLOROFORM NARCOSIS.

MM. P. LANGLOIS ET MAURANGE, after noting that various clinicians have demonstrated that sparteine is a regulator of the heart, state that it also diminishes the excitability of the pneumogastric. In rabbits, after a preliminary injection of one-half grain, easy and deep chloroformization is obtained. Manometric tracings show that, although there is a respiratory arrest caused by contact of the chloroform upon the nasal mucous membrane, the heart rapidly regains its rhythm. The diminution of the excitability of the vagus can be shown even with small doses. In dogs, besides the regularity of the cardiac tracing, the persistence of the arterial pressure is noted even during profound narcosis. In man, one-half to two-thirds of a grain of sparteine and one-sixth of a grain of morphine, fifteen minutes before chloroformization, often in cases of cardiac disease, or in long operations, has been used, and the heart has always remained perfectly regular and strong.—*Les Nouveaux Remèdes*, 1894, No 15, p. 344.

THE COAGULABILITY OF THE BLOOD.

DR. A. E. WRIGHT has indicated one method of increasing the coagulability of the blood—by the addition of lime salts to it; one-quarter to one-half of one per cent. solution of calcium chloride acts as a physiological styptic. The efficacy of these styptics may be increased by combining the calcium chloride with solutions of cell nucleo-albumins, that is, with albuminous substances which can be obtained from the aqueous extracts of any cellular tissues; for example, thymus, thyroid, testicle, gastric, or other mucous membranes. It was found that: 1. The addition of calcium chloride to extra-vascular blood causes it to coagulate more rapidly. 2. The internal administration of calcium chloride often causes an arrest of hemorrhage. 3. The continued administration of large doses of calcium chloride is not effectual in keeping up a permanent condition of increased blood coagulability. 4. A very appreciable increase of coagulability may be obtained by the administration of carbonic acid, but it is essential that a sufficiency of oxygen, or of ordinary air, should be administered with the carbonic acid, and it should be remembered that intra-vascular thrombosis may occur when carbonic acid is administered to an animal whose blood coagulability is abnormally high. 5. Alcohol diminishes the coagulability of the blood, as also do rapid respiratory movements.—*British Medical Journal*, 1894, No. 1750, p. 57.

CHLORALOSE.

MR. CHARLES FLEMMING, in a clinical paper concludes that we may expect benefit from this drug in all forms of functional sleeplessness, in the insomnia of psychical excitement, of hysteria, of neurasthenia and over-