each). There were no demonstrable effects on the electrocardiogram. The two normal individuals responded to the drug in the usual way. There was practically no effect on respiration from either large or small doses. Control experiments (five) with compound tincture of gentian (U. S. P.) administered under the same conditions as tincture of veratrum album to the same and other individuals, showed no noteworthy effect on the circulation. The effects of veratrum are due therefore to the drug *per se*. They conclude that all the desirable circulatory effects produced by tincture of veratrum album may be secured with doses ranging from 45 to 55 minims administered at the rate of about 10 to 15 minims every half to one hour. Large doses repeated at short intervals are apt to give rise to toxic symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting and some depression. These effects are generally absent with small doses given at longer intervals.

Experimental Studies of the Mode of Absorption of Mercury when Applied by Inunction.—SCHAMBERG and his collaborators (*Jour. Am. Med. Assn.*, 1918, lxx, 142) devised an ingenious experiment to settle the vexed question of the mode of absorption of mercury when applied by inunction. A box was divided into two compartments by means of a partition. In one part was placed Rabbit A (which was to receive the inunctions), with its head projecting into the outer air through an aperture in the end of the box. Rabbit B (the control) was placed in the other compartment with its head projecting through the partition into the compartment in which Rabbit A was confined. Rabbit B was thus constantly breathing an atmosphere heavily charged with mercury. From 0.5 to 1 gm. of mercury per kilogram (about fifteen times the amount used therapeutically) in the form of a 50 per cent. mercurial ointment or a 50 per cent. calomel ointment, was rubbed into the denuded skin of the back of Rabbit A. The inunctions were repeated two or three times in all within periods of from five to nine days. In every case Rabbit A died after a brief period and chemical examination showed considerable quantities of mercury in the kidneys and liver. These findings, taken in conjunction with the microscopic study of the organs, warrant the conclusion that the rabbits died of mercurial poisoning. The control rabbits remained in good condition. Those controls which had inhaled a metallic mercury atmosphere showed traces of mercury in kidneys, lungs, etc. (in one case a considerable amount), but there were no histological changes in the organs. When calomel ointment was used no mercury was found in the tissues of the control rabbits. The experiments were repeated five times, with similar results. These experiments demonstrate that the chief avenue of absorption of mercury, when applied by inunction, is the skin and that rabbits may be fatally poisoned with mercury even when no opportunity of absorption through the lungs exists. Metallic mercury in the form of the official mercurial ointment is more volatile and is much more apt to be absorbed through the lungs than calomel ointments of equal strength. The authors recommend the use of calomel ointment for inunctions on the ground that it is more cleanly than and at least as readily absorbed as the extremely dirty blue ointment.