THERAPEUTICS.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Contribution to the Knowledge of Phloridzin Diabetes.—DR. O. LOEWI has been experimenting to establish the fact, already determined by von Mering, that subcutaneous injections of phloridzin are followed by a greater excretion of sugar than when the drug is taken by the mouth. In the repeated experiments he found, as the cause of this peculiarity, (1) that the absorption of the phloridzin in the intestine is not a complete one, but that a decomposition takes place there, whereby a product is formed, difficult of absorption, yet capable of inducing diabetes if brought directly into the blood. The proof of this lies in the fact that if an extract of the feces of a dog fed with phloridzin be injected into another animal, glycosuria will follow; (2) in order to insure the highest degree of glycosuria, a certain amount of phloridzin is required, and, no matter how much this is increased under like conditions, no more sugar will be voided. If, however, the amount of food capable of producing sugar be increased, the amount of phloridzin must be larger to insure a maximum excretion; and (3) changes in the temperature of the animal are of no appreciable effect upon the glycosuria.—*Arch. für exp. Path. u. Pharmak.*, 1902, Band xlvii., p. 48.

Action of Digitalis and Its Allies upon the Vessels.—DRS. R. GOTTLIEB and R. MAUNUS have been repeating the experiments of F. Pick, which had been considered to prove conclusively a direct constricting action of digitalis and similar drugs upon the bloodvessels. This investigator did not give any evidence of the part played by the different vessels in this process, nor upon the time the vasomotor effect takes place and its duration. The new experiments were conducted on dogs. Two entirely different methods were employed: in one the amount of blood flowing out of the veins of different regions was registered after a sufficient amount of atropine had been given to overcome the slowing of the pulse; in the other the plethysmograph was used. The experiments showed that the increased blood pressure was due to increased heart action and contraction of the vessels, and that the latter is due to peripheral action which, in case of digitoxin, is general. In the case of the other examined glycosides (digitalin, convallamarin, strophanthin), the action is restricted to the splanchnic area. There is, however, some active constriction going on here in the peripheral vessels, yet this is overcome by a passive dilatation owing to reflux of blood from the intestines and an active reflex dilatation set up by the splanchnic