THERAPEUTICS.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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The Pharmacology of Digalen.—J. B. RENEAU (*Revue thérapeutique*, 1906, lxxiii, 721) concludes a study of the pharmacology of digalen (soluble digitoxin) with the following statement: If digalen, from a chemical point of view, does not appear to be a definite substance and one differing from the other active principles derived from digitalis, its manner of action upon the organism, its toxicity, and its local effect would lead one to consider it a substance nearly kin to digitalin, possessing similar cardiotonic and vasoconstrictor properties which are susceptible of interesting therapeutic utilization by reason of its feeble toxic action, of its lack of cumulative effect, and its weakly irritant local action.

Ovarian Extract in the Obstinate Vomiting of Pregnancy.—G. STELLA (*La semaine médicale*, 1906, xxvi, 523) believes that ovarian opotherapy possesses a true field of usefulness in the hyperemesis of pregnancy. The patients who he has treated by this means have been immediately relieved of this troublesome symptom, and his results have been so striking that he states that this form of treatment should always be tried before the advisability of emptying the uterus is considered. The dose prescribed corresponds to 45 grains of the fresh gland; in the most severe instances of vomiting this quantity may be progressively increased to twice this amount.

The Pharmacology of Veratrum.—WOOD, JR. (*Jour. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, 1906, xlvii, 2061), draws the following conclusions from experimentation with this drug: (1) Neither veratrin nor rubijervin is present in veratrum viride root in sufficient amount to be held responsible in any degree for the activity of the drug. (2) Protoveratrin, although an extremely poisonous substance, differs essentially in its effects from the veratrum rhizome, and, therefore, is not to be considered its active principle. Moreover, the proportions of it are too small to permit of its being considered the toxic ingredient. (3) Of the known proximate principles, jervin most nearly corresponds in its physiological action to the crude drug, but is present in too small amount in proportion to its toxicity to be considered the chief active ingredient. (4) The evidence, therefore, seems to be conclusive that there is in veratrum viride some active substance as yet undiscovered.