Dr. Danforth Phipps Wight was the son of Rev. Ebenezer Wight, formerly pastor of the Hollis-street Church in Boston. He was born at Dedham, February 8, 1792; graduated at Harvard College in 1815, and M.D. in 1819. He commenced business at Sandwich, but has for some years resided in his native town, where he is universally respected.

In South Dedham Dr. Philip Draper, Harvard College 1780, is supposed to have been the earliest resident physician. His time was not exclusively devoted to medical pursuits. At one period he was engaged in teaching; and for a time resided in Dorchester. He died in 1817, aged 60.

Dr. Ephraim French, a native of Randolph, went to South Dedham in 1814, but died the same year of a pulmonary complaint.

Dr. Elisha Thayer, author of Thayer's Memorial, succeeded him, and remained a few years. He then removed to Dedham Centre, where for many years his time has been chiefly occupied with his duties as Post-master.

Dr. John Kingsbury Briggs was the son of Rev. Ephraim Briggs, of Halifax. He studied medicine under the direction of Dr. Arad Thompson of Middleborough, and Dr. William Ingalls of Boston. In 1820, he received the degree of M.D. at Brown University. He settled in South Dedham soon after his graduation, and there for more than twenty years had the reputation of a worthy and successful physician. He was, for a considerable period, the subject of occasional pulmonary hemorrhage, which finally resulted in fatal disease, which terminated his life December 26, 1843, at the age of 49.

In West Dedham, with the exception of Dr. Francis Howe, the present incumbent, it is believed that no physician has ever taken up a permanent residence. He is a native of Framingham, born in 1787, studied medicine with Dr. John B. Kittredge, with whom he was for a time associated. In 1814 he took up his residence in West Dedham, and has continued there to the present time.

[To be continued.]

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF DIGITALIS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

IN Pereira's *Materia Medica*, Vol. II., p. 299, we find the following remarks on the use of digitalis.

"A most important fact connected with the repeated use of small doses of it, is the *cumulative effect* sometimes observed. It has not unfrequently happened, that in consequence of the continued use of this medicine, very dangerous symptoms, in some cases terminating in death, have occurred.

"The most prominent of these were, great depression of the vascular system, giddiness, want of sleep, convulsions, and sometimes nausea and vomiting. A knowledge of its occasional occurrence impresses us with the necessity of exercising great caution in the use of this remedy, particularly with respect to the continuance of its administration and in-

crease of dose ; and it shows that after the constitutional effect has become obvious, it is prudent to suspend from time to time the exhibition of the remedy, in order to guard against the effects of this alarming accumulation."

The patient, in the following case, a lad about 8 or 9 years of age, had been laboring under scarlatina of the anginose variety, attended with great disorder of the throat, and finally suppuration of the parotid glands with profuse discharge of pus ; and had been treated with the usual antiphlogistic course.

Convalescence was interrupted by the not unusual appearance of ascites and anasarca. These unpleasant symptoms were treated with mild purgatives, spt. nit. ether, and for two or three days the administration of gr. jss. pulv. digitalis every six hours, to promote absorption, and increase the renal secretion ; both of which objects were promptly attained.

The digitalis had been suspended for forty-eight hours, and the patient considered safe, when I was called in great haste, as he was thought to be dying. I found him in a comatose state, with coldness of the extremities, great prostration, and, when roused, evident disorder of vision and a peculiar oscillating movement of the eyes. He complained of pulsating frontal headache, had some nausea and vomiting, and profuse diuresis. He had frequent epileptic convulsions, during which the muscular contractions seemed to correspond with the oscillating movement of the eyes. The pupils were dilated, but still sensitive to the effects of light. The pulse was not much reduced in frequency, but somewhat irregular.

Under these circumstances my venerable friends, Drs. Socrates Smith and Hasseltine, were called in consultation. We administered antispasmodics and anodynes, applied sinapisms to the spine and extremities, and cold on the head. Although the little patient at times seemed *in articulo mortis*, the symptoms gradually abated, and in the course of a few days quite disappeared. After this the convalescence was uninterrupted.

It is earnestly hoped that some of the profession, who may have had experience in similar cases, will attempt the solution of the following queries :—

1st. Were the above unpleasant symptoms the *cumulative effects* of the digitalis, not a grain of which had been administered within forty-eight hours of their occurrence ?

2d. Do we possess any *antidote* to its effects ?

Rush, N. Y., Sept. 27th, 1853.

C. B. GALENTINE.

DEATH OF JUSSIEU.

To the necrological record of this year, which already includes so many scientific celebrities, must be added a name which has been illustrious for two centuries. Adrien de Jussieu, the fifth of that scientific dynasty, which commenced under the reign of Louis XIV., with Bernard de Jussieu, who laid down the principles of the *natural method* in botany, and Antoine Laurent de Jussieu, who established this system on an im-