because the end-organs of the sympathetic nerve by which it is supplied are less affected than those of the oculo-motor nerve in the circular muscle.—*Journal of Anatomy and Physiology*, May, 1868.

8. *Action of Veratrum Viride and V. Album.*—Dr. OULMONT (*Neues Repertorium für Pharmacie*, 1868, Bd. xvii. Heft. 3, p. 177) publishes some interesting observations and experiments made on man, dogs, rabbits, and frogs, with veratrum viride. When small, non-fatal doses were given to the lower animals, the symptoms were localized chiefly in the digestive, respiratory, and circulatory systems, and on the general force. In the digestive system, they consisted of nausea, of vomiting, which sometimes lasted for twenty hours, and of diarrhoea. If doses sufficient to cause death were administered, these symptoms occurred in an excessive degree, but no signs of inflammation could be discovered. The respirations were powerfully affected at an early stage; they were, sometimes, unequal and irregular; they were, sometimes, diminished in number to two or even one in the minute; and, in frogs, they were, sometimes, altogether stopped. The rapidity of the circulation was soon diminished, the pulse being often reduced within fifteen minutes by from twenty to forty beats in the minute. The effect on the temperature was somewhat less marked. It falls two, three, or five degrees in from an hour and a half to two hours, and it may remain at this reduced point as long as twenty-four hours. The hyposthenic action is nearly immediately produced, and the weakness and sinking of the general force are prominent effects of large doses; but even when these are sufficient to cause death, neither muscular stiffness nor convulsions ever occur. The latter symptoms, however, are the special characteristics of the action of veratria. For the purpose of comparison, Oulmont examined the action of veratrum album. He found that it is distinguished from that of V. viride by the greater violence of its effects on the digestive system, where it always produces inflammatory lesions, and by the greater rapidity of its action. Finally, the action of the alkaloid veratria, was investigated with the somewhat unexpected result, that it is not the true active principle of veratrum. Some V. viride was completely freed from the alkaloid, and an ordinary dose given to an animal; the effects were in all respects the same as those of the usual preparations. Oulmont concludes that veratrum viride is a cardiac poison analogous to digitalis, from which it is distinguished by its extraordinary rapidity of action. This investigation is of special interest as, until now, a considerable amount of uncertainty has existed as to its exact physiological action.—*Journ. Anat. and Phys.*, May, 1868.

9. *Physiological Action of Théine.*—Chemical analysis has shown that tea contains the same crystallizable, nitrogenized principle as coffee and cacao. Dr. LEVEN conceived that it would be useful to determine by experiments whether the physiological effects were the same. Having already experimented with caffeine (see No. of this Journal for April, 1868, p. 525), he determined to experiment with théine on frogs and guinea pigs. The following are his conclusions:—

1st. Théine and caffeine, considered as one and the same alkaloid by chemists, seem to produce different toxic effects on animals submitted to their action.

2d. Théine is a less powerful toxic than caffeine, and it is only when given in double doses that the former produces the toxic effects of the latter.

3d. Théine also produces convulsive movements in the limbs, which Dr. L. has not observed from the action of caffeine.

4th. In other respects their physiological effects are identical. Both alkaloids seem to directly excite the heart and respiratory movements and to increase arterial tension. By exciting the circulation, they stimulate the central nervous system, the brain and spinal marrow; but they do not arrest the functions of the spinal cord and nerves. The tetanic convulsions resulting from their action is caused by the stimulation of the spinal cord. They do not abolish the functions of muscle; the heart does not cease to beat immediately after death.—*Archives de Physiologie Normale et Pathologique*, May-June, 1868.