

degree of pressure in the aortic system is the conjoint result of these two factors. The first action of digitalis on each is to excite, and the second to paralyse. If, then, the motor are more stimulated than the regulating nerves, the arterial pressure will be increased, and so it will be if the regulating are enfeebled while the motor are excited. On the contrary, the arterial pressure diminishes when the regulating nerves are more strongly excited than the motor. In a dog, after division of the vagi, the pressure rose after injection of digitalis from 124 to 260, declining in ten minutes to 176 millim. Repetition of the injection speedily arrested the heart's action. There seems to be a remarkable correspondence between these observations and those of Hufschmidt and Molescholt as to the effect of irritation of the medulla oblongata and spinal cord on the frequency of the pulse, v. p. 10. In addition to the results quoted there, it may be mentioned that they found irritation of the medulla oblongata was conducted to the heart through the pneumogastric, and not through the sympathetic nerves, while irritation of the spinal cord was transmitted to the heart through both sets of nerves. From the above evidence there seems good ground to conclude (1) that digitalis in the milder degrees of its action has a stimulating influence upon the heart, acting through the medulla oblongata and spinal cord or the cardiac nerves proceeding from them; (2) that its stronger action has the reverse effect, like galvanism or mechanical irritation arresting the heart's movements."

In concluding this notice, it is hardly needful to add an earnest recommendation of this work to every physician, and especially to every alienist. In a department where hasty theory is rife, and good clinical observations are few and far between, it presents itself conspicuously as avoiding the former, and embodying abundantly the latter. Not only ample instruction to those interested, but also the encouragement which the words of an enthusiastic observer always bring to those of like sympathies with himself, may be drawn constantly from these pages. Rare skill in the application of theory often strikes us as we read; while we are constantly accompanied by the more impressive, if less brilliant, virtue of accurate truth to nature in picturing so long a series of her morbid phenomena.

R. P. N.

PART III.—QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.

NOTE.—*The length of the Report of the Proceedings at the Annual Meeting compels us to omit the usual Quarterly Report on the Progress of Psychological Medicine.*