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Key passages

OBSERVATIONS ON PREOPERATIVE TREATMENT WITH STROPHANTHIN

By

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Since the patients did not suffer from myocardial insufficiency, the effect of strophanthin was difficult to evaluate. The only possibility of getting a measure of the suitability of strophanthin for preoperative cardiac treatment is to compare the number of cardiovascular complications occurring in patients treated with strophanthin during and after the operation to that of complications observed in a control material consisting of patients who had not received strophanthin. In order to obtain the control material, every other patient admitted to the hospital and having attained the age of 50, was designated by A, and every other patient by B. By the great courtesy of Professor A. VARTIAINEN of Orion Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co., we were provided with ampullas marked «strophain a» and «b» respectively. When patients belonging to Group A were operated on, they were treated preoperatively with strophain a. The patients of Group B got strophain b. One set of ampullas contained 0.5 mg of k-strophanthin dissolved in 1 ml of a physiological saline solution, while the other ampullas contained only 1 ml of saline solution. Nobody in the hospital knew in which of the ampulla sets the strophanthin had been dissolved. Only the head physicians and the authors knew that one set of ampullas contained nothing but a solution of saline. Not before the investigation was finished and the data obtained had been finally worked out and arranged did Professor VARTIAINEN announce that the ampullas marked «strophain a» had contained k-strophanthin. In this way we tried to make the treatment of our material as objective as possible.