

knowledge, who has thought it desirable to relate this matter in detail that other officers of asylums may be on their guard.

Dr. Jepson should have told us the character of the man's feigned insanity, and the particular delusions which he thought fit to assume. It seems to us that it is becoming necessary to study carefully the features of simulated insanity. Since it has been made known, by the issue of Lady Mor-daunt's case, that a husband whose wife has committed adultery cannot proceed against her for a divorce so long as she is insane, we have seen two cases in which wives, who had gone astray from the paths of virtue, went mad as soon as they were found out. And the madness was of a very suspicious kind. One lady, whose wits were acute enough in most respects, suddenly found out that she was the wife of Prince Arthur, and was particularly anxious to telegraph to him; the other lady broke out all at once into very advanced insanity, in which she declared herself to be the Queen, and looked under her bed to discover the Prince of Wales, who, she said, was concealed there. Her habits were such as are usually met with in prisoners feigning insanity—dirty in the extreme.

It is a curious fact, however, in regard to cases of this kind, that while one cannot help suspecting simulation, one cannot help feeling at the same time that the very feigning of insanity is itself a sort of insanity. Many women who commit adultery have an inherited tendency to insanity; some have a marked insane temperament; and the fall into sin is often the result and evidence of the latent vice of mental organization. This is a fact which every one who is tempted to fall in love with another man's wife would do well to remember; let him beware; the more flattering the demonstration on her part, the greater the danger lying behind. A woman who, for the gratification of a lust, risks or abandons all that most persons hold dear, has a strong tendency in her to be either mad or bad—badly mad or madly bad.

Monomania and Depression from Lead Poisoning.

In the Annual Report of the Waterford Asylum for 1871, the Medical Superintendent, Dr. MacCabe, relates the follow-
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ing interesting case, in which the symptoms of mental derangement disappeared as the patient recovered from the effects of lead poisoning:—

A. P., aged 50, married, admitted 17th March, 1871, suffering from monomania, with depressing visceral symptoms, and a fixed idea that people were whispering about her. General health very bad; complains of constant colic, constipation, and obscure pains in back and limbs. On examination, blue line marked on gums; extensors of wrist weak, but no dropping of the wrist. On enquiry, it was found that this woman, in her business, constantly handled white lead, and after so doing often took her meals without washing her hands. The drinking-water she had used was doubtful in character. Disregarding the insanity, she was immediately put under treatment for lead poisoning; and with this result, that in proportion as the blue line faded from the gums and her general health improved, she lost her hallucinations and made a rapid recovery, the improvement in her mental condition and the disappearance of her morbid fancies regularly keeping pace with the elimination of the poison from her system. This patient has since continued well.

As it does not happen that there are any symptoms of insanity in one out of a hundred cases of lead poisoning, it would have been instructive to have ascertained, if possible, what other co-operating condition there was in the above case. Had the woman any hereditary predisposition to insanity, or any other special neurosis? Why, in fact, was it that a cause which usually produces nothing more than mental depression in addition to its physical symptoms, produced actual insanity? The success which followed the proper treatment of lead poisoning shows how necessary it is to attend to the bodily conditions which may accompany mental disorders, and how much may sometimes be done by means skilfully used to cure the bodily disorder.

Effects of Fright on the Mind.

In the "Annales Médico-Psychol.," for July, 1871, Dr. B. de Boismont relates a curious incident in the history of the late siege of Paris, as illustrating the effects of fright or a profound shock on the mind.

In discussing some cases, related by American physicians, in which after recovery from severe illness the patients had