

Medical men, whether hypnotists or not, who are aware that they are inheritors, however deservedly, from a patient would do well to remember the French law, and obtain the aid of a colleague during the final illness. In this way only can they avoid the suspicion which so readily attaches to such an inheritance.

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*Lead Poisoning.*

The public attention has been of late very much directed to the subject of the ill effects resulting from lead intoxication in industrial workers brought into contact with this poisonous substance.

The injurious effects are much more numerous than even the most alarmist of these reports show; for beyond the striking and obvious cases recorded are many of more insidious nervous deterioration, besides the cases of abortion traceable to this cause, and the less frequent but undoubted occurrence of idiocy and imbecility in the offspring of lead-intoxicated parents.

That legislation safeguarding the use of this noxious substance may follow on this direction of popular attention is to be hoped, but these outbursts of interest in health subjects are, unfortunately, but too easily forgotten. It is the duty, however, of our profession to periodically stimulate the social memory, and we must endeavour not to neglect the performance of this function.

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*Hypnotism.*

The section of Psychology at the British Medical Association meeting again discussed this subject, but apparently nothing novel of actual fact was adduced.

The bold attempt of Dr. Milne Bramwell to prove that there are no drawbacks to the therapeutic use of hypnotism is, however, a challenge which should be promptly met. Very many observers have seen cases in which hypnosis has been followed by very definite and distinctly evil results. Many instances of this kind have been recorded, and good service would be done by their collection and tabulation, as a check to future assertions of this kind.

Hypnotism is an abnormal state of the brain, and although it may result in apparent benefit to less highly developed portions of the organism, the question remains whether this