

weakness, dyspepsia, great tenderness over the bowels, and constipation. On examining the gums, the 'blue mark' * was visible. Here the cause of the disease was at first hidden by the fact of the muscles of the back, loins and thighs being most paralysed; but on enquiry I found he was a horse-shoer, and that these muscles come more into use. Eight months previously, on only one occasion, he made a little putty with white-lead, and had no recollection of being brought into contact with lead in any other form." He also gives the case of a baker's man who "complained of cramp and muscular weakness in his back and arms. The blue mark was visible. Two months since, the kitchen where he sleeps, and which is used for the culinary purposes of the family, was painted. Here the muscles of the arms and back are most used in wheeling his cart and often stooping."

Lead colic has been produced by sleeping in a freshly painted room; and the disease is more likely to be caused if heat is used to hasten the drying of the paint. Most medical men are familiar with the case mentioned by Dr. Watson, (*Practice of Physic*), in which a woman presented well-marked symptoms of lead poisoning, colic, dropped hands, &c., and the source of the poison was a number of bird-cages which had been painted green a few months previous, in the room she habitually occupied. But, as Dr. Sille observes, "more than all, water which has dissolved the oxide or carbonate of lead, in its contact with reservoirs or pipes of this metal, is a fruitful source of all the forms" of lead-poisoning.

Leaden pipes being so universally employed in cities to supply water to the houses, cases of lead-poisoning would surely be of very frequent occurrence did not most waters contain salts of lime—calcium carbonate, calcium sulphate, or calcium phosphate (which last Frankland has found to have a great protective power)—by means of which a thin coating of an insoluble salt of lead is formed, which closely invests the metal and prevents further action of the water. Hence, waters which act least upon lead are those containing these calcium salts.

The amount of dissolved lead which will sometimes produce symptoms of poisoning is very minute. Dr. Angus Smith

* This is a peculiar symptom, just observed, it appears, in Europe in 1334, by Dr. H. Burton, and described by him as "a narrow leaden-blue line," about 1-20 of an in. in width, along the attachment between the teeth and the gums. It is believed to be a local effect, produced by the action of the sulphur contained in the food, or eructations from the stomach upon the lead in the saliva, and which tends to lodge along the line mentioned.