

the physicians and surgeons are now enabled to devote more time and attention to their cases than their numerous occupations permitted of during the winter session. Hospital Reports, therefore, shall form the subject of this and the next letter.

*Lead Colic.*—On the 16th May I witnessed a case of this affection in St Mary's Hospital, under Dr. Sibson, which possessed features of some interest, from the success of a form of treatment, strictly chemical in its nature. The patient, a painter by trade, had been admitted on the 13th, suffering from severe pain in the bowels, which were at the same time most obstinately constipated. The gums presented a bluish tinge near their margins, and the symptoms were unmistakeably those of saturnine disease. The bowels were moved with some difficulty, and the patient was then ordered half a drachm of sulphur during the day, to be taken in treacle, and sulphur baths. Each bath contained half an ounce of sulphur, in water sufficient to cover the body. Each time, on coming out of the bath, the surface of the skin of the greater part of the body and face was blackened in color, to the alarm of the patient, but which subsequently washed off. This blackness was owing to the decomposition of the lead, and the formation of a sulphuret, which is perfectly harmless. The use of the sulphur internally acted very beneficially, keeping the bowels regular, and gradually removing the pain. He was so far recovered to-day as to desire his discharge; it was considered prudent, however, to keep him in hospital a few days longer, more particularly as he wanted to recommence work at his old trade. Dr. Sibson, in speaking of this case, informed me that Dr. Gueneau de Mussy treated the late King Louis Philippe on this plan, when suffering with his family from lead poisoning at Claremont, with perfect success. I remember reading his paper, but forget whether it was published in the Archives Generales de Medecine, or in the Dublin Quarterly Journal. The form of treatment is simple in its nature, and, although chemical, is certainly rational in its principles.

*Seton in Ununited Fracture.*—A little boy, aged about 11 years, was admitted into the surgical ward of Bartholinew's Hospital some weeks back, for an ununited fracture of the lower portions of the tibia and fibula of the left leg. His leg was broken in August of last year, and was seen by a surgeon, who looked upon the injury as merely a bruise, and who prescribed a lotion. The boy, however, soon commenced to limp about of his own accord, when the leg became crooked, and a sort of false joint formed between the ends of the broken bones. The leg, on his admission, was forcibly straitened, and put in a long splint, and retained in this position for some time, without any beneficial effects whatever being produced, when Mr. Lawrence thought it advisable to treat