

Whatever views may be held as to the efficiency of quarantine, there can be no doubt of the advantage, in a country like ours, of insisting upon rigid medical inspection, vaccination of immigrants, isolation of suspicious cases, and the disinfection of ships and clothing. By carrying out measures such as these we may hope to prevent the ingress of diseases not now known in the country, and prevent the spread by immigrants of the more common infectious diseases.

LEAD POISONING.

When Sir George Baker discovered that the cause of the Devonshire colic was the presence of lead in the cider for which that county was so justly famous, it was thought that lead-poisoning would become one of the things of the past. Unfortunately, however, the study of the various manifestations of saturnism lead us to the opinion that although there may now-a-days be less colic in Poictou and Devon, yet lead poisoning is still prevalent in both town and country to an extent truly alarming. Within the last few years we have published several well reported cases occurring in rural districts. Country practitioners are not too fond of putting their experiences into print, and the few reported cases represent a large number which have never seen the light. Again, it is reasonable enough to suppose that both in town and country very many cases fail to come under the notice of the medical man at all, while other cases may be treated without being recognized as being of saturnine origin. In Montreal the various forms of lead poisoning are very prevalent. The wards of the General Hospital are seldom without three or even four severe cases, and a still larger number are to be found in attendance at the out-patient department.

Moreover, we are of opinion that lead-poisoning is largely on the increase, and that preventive measures should demand the immediate attention of the local Board of Health. The origin of the poisoning, as related by the patients themselves, is in some instances to be found in the defective arrangements for the ventilation of those workshops where lead is used. Not long ago a paint factory in the city sent a case to the General Hospital which