

DR. GEO. ROSS said he had been induced to try acetate of lead for abdominal aneurism, but he found that small doses (five to ten grains) brought on colic and other toxic symptoms.

DR. RUTTAN, in reply to Dr. Ross, stated that the yellow and green dyes used in printing postage stamps contained chromate of lead, and he had been able to trace several cases to this source. He believed that there was much still to learn regarding the pharmacology of lead salts. A favorite hæmodynamic among obstetricians was two-drachm doses of acetate of lead, repeated, if necessary. Excess of acetic acid could not be a preventative, as he knew of several cases of lead poisoning from using vinegar that contained lead dissolved from the glazing of the jar that was used to hold it. In one case there was less than two grains to the fluid ounce of vinegar, yet the colic and other toxic symptoms were well defined. The lead in these cases must have been in the form of acetate in solution.

DR. STEWART said that where acetate of lead is given in medicinal doses some escape and some are affected; all patients are not equally susceptible to the action of lead. And, again, the toxic effect of the drug occasionally manifests itself by its action on the blood, or may attack the nervous system or the intestinal ganglia. The treatment is generally an alterative one. He thought that iodide of potassium acted as an alterative and not as a chemical antidote to the lead. He regarded the œdema so frequently a marked symptom in these cases to be due to vaso-motor paralysis.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PHYSICIANS.

The fourth annual meeting was held in the Army Medical Museum and Library, Washington, D. C., September 18, 19 and 20, 1889. The Association was called to order at 10 a.m. by the President, Dr. Francis Minot, of Boston.

The first business was the reading of the President's address, which dealt with the progress of medicine during the last fifty years. He reported the deaths of the following members: Drs. H. D. Schmidt, New Orleans; John C. Dalton, New York (honorary member); Robert Palmer Howard, Montreal; and Edward T. Bruen, Philadelphia.

Dr. C. F. FOLSON, of Boston, read a paper on *The Early Stage of General Paralysis*. The author first reported a number of cases illustrating the early stage of the disease, in which the motor disturbances were very slight, and might readily be overlooked and escape detection. The striking loss of muscular control or power, generally considered a part of the disease, was not found until a late period of the