

lised, and any expectations of producing by hypnotic methods any desirable moral or mental effect rest upon a totally inadequate basis of fact, and are far from being promising.

DANGERS OF HYPNOTISM.

Hypnotism is not yet much practised in Canada, but it is to some extent, and to a great extent in the "States." We give the following as a "note of warning" (from the N. Y. Med. Jour.) An amateur at a friend's house volunteered to hypnotise another visitor, and after two trials succeeded so well that the subject became extremely excited, lost the power of speech and then passed into the condition of catalepsy; subsequently he had severe convulsions. He had been hypnotised by being made to look at a diamond ring and afterwards the sight of anything glittering threw him into a state of violent excitement. He performed various odd automatic movements, slept only in snatches, awaking in nightmare, and in fact was in a condition to which the French physicians would probably apply the grave term hysteria with maniacal excitement. He was treated with sedatives. After ten days the convulsive attacks were replaced by periods during which he sang persistently, apparently every song he knew, and nothing would stop him. After about a fortnight he had an attack of fever, followed by copious perspiration and asthma; a few days later he had another feverish attack, again followed by perspiration, after which he declared himself well. The cause of the fever his physician believed was due to inflammation of the anterior part of the brain. The case ought to be a warning, both to amateur hypnotisers and people who allow themselves to be played upon by "show-men." A demand is arising in France, the United States and other countries that the practice of hypnotism be placed under legal restrictions.

PHYSICAL TRAINING OF INFANTS.

The following excellent advice on not teaching young children to walk is by Prof. Henri Marion, in a lecture before The Literary Faculty of Paris :-from the Revue Scientifique, as translated for the Popular Science Monthly, April, 1891: "People sometimes ask, at what age can we seat a child in a chair; when put him on his legs; how old must he be before we teach him how to walk? The answers are easy. He must not be made to sit till he has spontaneously sat up in his bed and has been able to hold

his seat. This sometimes happens in the sixth or seventh month, sometimes later. The sitting position is not without danger, even when he takes it himself; imposed prematurely upon him, it tires the backbone and may interfere with the growth, so the child should never be taught to stand or to walk. That is his affair, not ours. Place him on a carpet in a healthy room or in the open air, and let him play in freedom, roll, try to go ahead on his hands and feet, or go backward, which he will do more successfully at first, it all gradually strengthens and hardens him. Some day he will manage to get upon his knees, another day to go forward upon them and then to raise himself up against the chairs. He thus learns to do all he can, as fast as he can, and no more. But, they say, he will be longer in learning to walk if he is left to go on his knees or his hands and feet indefinitely. What difference does it make if, exploring the world in this way, he becomes acquainted with things, learns to estimate distances, strengthens his legs and back, prepares himself, in short, to walk better when he gets to walking? The important thing is, not whether he walks now or then; but that he learn to guide himself, to help himself, and to have confidence in himself. I hold, without exaggeration, that education of the character is going on at the same time with training in locomotion, and that the way one learns to walk is not without moral importance. From different points of view, but for reasons identical at the bottom, hygienists and moralists agree in disapproving of leading-strings. In a moral and physical sense, the pre-eminent educating agent is liberty, natural activity, unfolding itself without restraint under a discreet surveillance that is limited to removing grave changes and preventing real thoughts. The necessity of such surveillance is otherwise evident from the fact that the body of the child, on account of its extreme suppleness, takes every sort of wrinkle, if we may speak thus, with equal facility. Vigilance at every moment is all that can prevent it from contracting every kind of vicious habit; the great point is to reconcile such vigilance with the liberty which its spontaneous development demands.

AN IMPORTANT PROPOSED CONFERENCE.

We learn that a prominent place will be assigned, in the discussions of the International Congress of Hygiene, to be held in London next August, under the presidency of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, to the question of how far the diseases of animals are communicable to man, and