ed, was found to yield to him about 1½ grains of lead per diem.

Another case is given of a lady and her daughter who were poisoned by the " use and abuse " of a cosmetic powder containing 0.20 of white lead.

In another article the *Gazetta* also notices that in France the Prefect of police has forbidden the sale of Cincinnati hams, because they came done up in cloth coloured yellow with chromate of lead.

CALIFORNIA STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.—Dr. Cheney, Chairman of the Committee on Ethics, made a report on the subject of the ownership of prescriptions, which was referred to the Committee last year. The report recommended the adoption of the resolution then offered by Dr. Stout, declaring that the written prescription of a physician is the property of the physician and not of the patient or druggist, and that it ought not to be renewed by the latter without a special order from the physician prescribing. The resolution was adopted by the society.

The following report was presented, on the subject of the admission of female members :

"We the Board of Censors, to whom was referred the application of the ladies holding diplomas regularly conferred upon them for membership in this society, beg leave to report that we know of no valid reason why the society should not admit ladies to full membership. We therefore recommend their admission. Signed, C. A. Kirkpatrick, H. P. Babcock, C. L. Tyrrel, H. Gibbons."

NATIVE MEXICAN MIDWIFERY.—Dr. Thomas, Jr., writes to the Virginia *Medical Monthly :* I find that the following is the way in which a regular Mexican midwife performs her duty : A rope is suspended from the ceiling. Under the loose end of this a folded blanket is placed, on which the woman kneels and grasps the rope, arms extended. Behind her is placed a strong man, with his arms around her waist, while in front sits the midwife, with both hands against the perineum. When a pain comes on, the woman pulls on the rope, the man squeezes, and the midwife bears against the perineum,

which she at the same time strokes from behind forward. After the child has been thus squeezed, shaken and jolted out, the woman is then put to bed and arranged in the sitting posture, with a sheet around her waist, in which is wrapped an ovoid lump of horse manure, baked, cooled, and packed into this shape. This horse manure is supposed to have the virtue of keeping the blood in its neighborhood.

RUPTURE OF THE SPLEEN.—Dr. Finnell presented a spleen with the following remarkable history : The patient was twenty-eight years of age, and the mother of three children. There was no history of previous disease. Suddenly, while lifting a stove, she felt that something gave way, and consequent on this, severe pain in the abdomen. At that time the patient was in the third month of her pregnancy. The abdominal pain continued steadily for three days, when abortion came on, and on the following day she was delivered of a decomposed fœtus. The physician who was called on to attend her during the abortion suspected, from the severity of the pain, that the patient was suffering from peritonitis. Four hours after delivery the patient died. At the autopsy, two pints of blood were found in the peritonæum, and on examining for the cause it was noticed that blood was escaping from fissures in the spleen. There was no extravasation in or about that viscus to show the effect of injury. The spleen weighed five ounces, and resembled currant jelly. The other viscera were healthy. The points of particular interest in the case were, the absence of all signs of peritonitis and the presence of rupture of an organ like the spleen, without any history or signs of direct injury.—*New York Pathological Society.*

THE KENTUCKY SHOWER OF FLESH.—At last we have a proper explanation of this much talked of phenomenon. Mr. L. Brandeis writes to the *Sanitarian*, for May :—

In 1537, while Paracelsus was engaged in the production of his "elixir of life," he came across a very strange-looking vegetable mass, to which he gave the name of "Nostoc."

The want of rapid transportation, combined