other organs. This is without doubt related to the fact that, owing to its solubility in fats and fatlike compounds, benzene has a natural "affinity" for the lipoid of the nervous tissues. The same distribution, for comparable reasons, has been made for chloroform and acetone. Similar findings are also to be expected in the case of toluene (toluol, methyl benzene) which, though chemically closely related to benzene, has less practical importance with respect to the possibilities of industrial poisoning.—*J. A. M. A.*

THE POSSIBILITIES OF POISONING WITH CARBON MONOXIDE

The progress of science and the improvement of industrial conditions have made possible the prevention and elimination of many hygienic dangers that beset man in his daily life. At the same time, newer modes of living and processes of manufacture have brought novel and often unanticipated menaces to the welfare of those who are concerned with them. An illustrative instance of this is the history of carbon monoxide as a source of poisoning. This product has long been known as a harmful admixture in certain combustion products; and, when attention was directed to it from time to time, steps were taken to avoid the danger involved. Mild types of ordinary combustion product poisoning still occur occasionally in homes as the result of heating apparatus with poor drafts, in gas plants, and in other places, but they are recognized and subsequently averted by proper ventilation. The installation of large electric furnaces, such as those in use at Niagara Falls, brought the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning in an unusual way. Tons of the gas are liberated in these plants every day, but provision is made for its prompt oxidation to carbon dioxide so that no harm whatever is threatened except when there is an occasional temporary imperfection in the oxidation and ventilation arrangements. The danger from illuminating gas has increased with the augmented use of "water gas" in this country. This is particularly harmful because of its large content of carbon monoxide. It furnishes a considerable proportion of the deaths by poisoning. A "miner's disease" of some interest has been associated with carbon monoxide derived principally from explosive used in blasting. The domestic forms of poisoning with carbon monoxide gas from the use of defective heating appliances are not always of moderate severity. Usually headache, nausea and circulatory failure are the sole symptoms; but the cases may often assume a more serious aspect. This is pos-