

magnet. As I used it such a short time after its arrival, it seems to be a correctly-made statement.

The shorter the time after the lodgment of a piece of steel in the interior of the eye the magnet is used, the better the hope of recovery, is allowed by all of us.

Alloys of iron may be wholly or nearly non-magnetic. The alloy of iron with manganese and the effect it produces in the destruction and alteration of its susceptibility to magnetism is interesting and surprising. Without going any further into the magnetism of alloys of iron, it is stated as a fact that special steels differ widely in their behaviour when placed in the magnetic field. This ought to be borne in mind, although it is again stated that all of them affect only slightly the question of removal from the eye.

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### INHERITED SYPHILIS.\*

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THIS subject is of sufficient importance to justify the attention that can be given to it in a short article. It is now admitted that the *Spirochæta pallida*, discovered by Schaudinn and Hoffman in 1905, is the cause of the disease. Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson pointed out many years ago, and long before the organism had been discovered, but assumed to exist, that unless a child brought the germ with it into the world, or got it very soon after birth, it did not inherit nor acquire syphilis. If either of the parents had previously suffered from syphilis, the child might inherit a weakly constitution, though not the disease.

#### I. THE TERMS EMPLOYED.

Of late there has been a good deal of discussion on the terms congenital syphilis, hereditary syphilis, and inherited syphilis. The third is the more accurate expression. The term "congenital" is not always true when applied to this disease, as the child may be syphilitic and yet not congenitally so. The term "hereditary" should be employed for such conditions or states as may descend through a number of generations, which is certainly not the case with syphilis. The term "inherited" means that a child is born with the disease, or acquires it at birth, manifesting the disease while still very young. This is, therefore, the most accurate term.

The cause of syphilis is a special kind of protozoon of spiral form, with a flagellum at each end. It is very motile, with three forms of

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\* Abstract of a Post-Graduate Lecture delivered at The Toronto Orthopedic Hospital.