WHITE LEAD PROHIBITED IN FRANCE.

Recently the Conseil Superieur d'Hygiene, by an order of M. Waldeck-Rousseau, Minister of the Interior, and the Commission d'Hygiene Industrielle, by an order of M. Millerand, Minister of Commerce, have been studying the means, in the interests of the corporation of painters in buildings, to remedy the danger resulting from the use of white lead in paints. The use of zinc, which is reputed to be inoffensive, is recommended as a substitute. M. Waldeck-Rosseau promises to ratify the decision of the Conseil Superieur, and no doubt its advice will serve as a basis for a law regulating the use of white lead in private enterprise. Of course the municipalities in France will have something to say on the question, as they reckon among their administrators a great number of painters of buildings. The municipality of Lyons has taken the initiative, however, in prescribing zinc to replace the white lead in the contracts for painting to be executed for the municipality. Bourges, Issoudun, Vierzon, Saint-Martin, Saint-Florent, (Cher) have followed suit.

THATCHED ROOFS NOT ALLOWABLE.

Thatched roofs have been adopted for some modern English country houses. Dexterous thatchers are not to be found everywhere, and in consequence roofs are to be seen which have a looseness that was not characteristic of the work that was executed prior to the modern revival. In Scotland the authorities are not in favor of thatched roofs. By the Burgh Police Act of 1892 non-combustible roofs are alone legal. Hitherto it was believed that the clause relating to thatching was applicable only to new buildings. A case has arisen in Kilmarnock which suggests that the Act is retrospective. An owner of three cottages was ordered to have them covered with a non-combustible roof within six months, and as he did not comply he was fined. The owner appealed, and contended that the Act was not applicable to buildings like his cottages, which had been in existence for several years and in which no alteration was made. The sheriff dismissed the appeal, and it may therefore be assumed that thatch, however picturesque, is doomed to be supplanted by slates.

STEEL CASING A LIGHTHOUSE.

An ingenious use of steel plates has been made at a lighthouse at Grande Pointe au Sable in Michigan. The lighthouse, which is about 80 feet high, is formed of brick, with a stone base. It was erected in 1867, but almost from its completion it has suffered from the violent rain storms of the district. For a long time pointing was undertaken regularly, but at length it was determined to encase the lighthouse with metal. The bent plates used varied from 5-16 of an inch to 3-16 inch in thickness, and they were united by means of angle bars. As a further precaution, a space was allowed between the brickwork and the metal-work, which was filled in with concrete. The work was carried out by MR. E. I. WOODRUFF, and the total cost has been about $5,000. For that outlay a servicable lighthouse has been secured, and it is believed that owing to the success of the experiment several others of the numerous lighthouses that are required near the big lakes and rivers of America will be treated in a similar way.